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REVIEWS

Fauna Boreali-Americani, or, the Zoology of the Northern Parts of British America, Part II., Birds. By W. Swainson, Esq., and John Richardson, M.D. 4to. London, 1832. Murray.

THIS splendid volume, the publication of which we announced in our paper of last week, forms the second part of the first zoological work ever published under the immediate authority of the British government, and reflects the highest credit on all those who have either interested themselves in the production of it, or laboured in the execution.

Dr. Richardson, it will be recollected, was the surgeon and naturalist on the late northern land expeditions under the command of Capt. Sir John Franklin, R.N.; and such was the indefatigable zeal directed even to the minor objects of the undertaking, notwithstanding all the difficulties encountered, and so great the extent and value of the collections made, and information obtained, in various departments of natural history, that his late Majesty's government was induced to aid an extensive and scientific form of publication. On an application, which had the approval of the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, the Treasury granted the sum of one thousand pounds to be applied towards defraying the expense of numerous engravings: a portion to be devoted to each of the different parts. The volumes on Mammalia and Birds are now before the public; the Entomology, by the Rev. William Kirby, and the Botany, by Professor Hooker, are in progress.

Science is indebted to the exertions of the Hudson's Bay Company for almost all that was previously known of the ornithology of the American fur-countries, north of the 48th parallel of latitude. The first collections of Hudson's Bay birds were brought to England about the year 1745, and many of the species were accurately described and figured by Mr. George Edwards, in the early volumes of his well known 'Natural History of Birds,' previous to 1750. Edwards presented a copy of this work, in seven quarto volumes, coloured by his own hand, to the Royal Society; and another copy, which he sent to Linnaeus, returning to England again when Sir James Smith acquired the invaluable museum and library of that prince of naturalists, is now in the possession of the Linnaean Society.

The authors of the present volume have judiciously availed themselves of all that has been hitherto gleaned of the ornithology of an immense district, more than equal to the whole of the European continent, north of the same parallel of latitude; and it is remarkable, that the species distributed over the two countries are nearly equal in num-

ber, of which about eighty are common to both. Of the plates, amounting to fifty, the whole are admirable: the drawing and colouring are of first-rate excellence, and the effect produced at once striking and beautiful. The various tables of species, and their temporary localities, are interesting and valuable: and the numerous wood-cuts distributed throughout the work are an important acquisition to the ornithologist.

The effects of climate and soil, as influencing migration, are particularly noticed: we select only two or three detached portions:—

"Birds are usually divided into migratory and resident, though comparatively few in the fur-countries are strictly entitled to the latter appellation. The raven, and Canadian, and short-billed jays, are, indeed, the only species which we recognized as being equally numerous at their breeding places in winter as in summer; and they pair and begin to lay eggs in the month of March, nearly three months earlier than any other bird in those quarters.

"A number of species, which rear two or more broods within the United States, raise only one in the fur-countries, the shortness of the summer not admitting of their doing more. The passenger pigeons do not visit the fur-countries, where they breed, until after they have reared a brood, and quitted the breeding-places in Kentucky.

"The nature of the country, whether prairie or wooded, rocky and barren, or marshy, must also be taken into account in all speculations on the distribution of the feathered tribes. Several of the wading-birds, for instance, that feed by thrusting their bills into soft marshy soil, frequent the Saskatchewan prairies only in spring, and as soon as the warm and comparatively early summer renders the soil dry and unfit to yield them support, they retire to their breeding quarters in the Arctic lands. There, the frozen subsoil, acted upon by the rays of a sun constantly above the horizon, keeps the surface wet and spongy during the two short summer months, which suffice these birds for rearing their young. This office performed, they depart to the southward, and halt in the autumn on the flat shores of Hudson's Bay, which, owing to accumulations of ice drifted into the Bay from the northward, are kept in a low temperature all the summer, and are not thawed to the same extent with the more interior Arctic lands, before the beginning of autumn. They quit these haunts on the setting in of the September frosts, and passing along the coasts of the United States, retire within the Tropics in the winter."

The high scientific attainments of both the gentlemen who have so successfully united their powers for the production of this work, are too well known and appreciated to require any eulogium on our part. Throughout the volume the detail of systematic arrangement is by Mr. Swainson; the habits of the species are principally described by Dr. Richardson, and from these last we shall make a selection, as more interesting to the general reader.

"Golden Eagle."

"This powerful bird breeds in the recesses of the sub-alpine country, which skirts the rocky mountains, and is seldom seen farther to the eastward. It is held by the aborigines of America, as it is by almost every other people, to be an emblem of might and courage; and the young Indian warrior glories in his eagle plume as the most honourable ornament with which he can adorn himself. Its feathers are attached to the calumets or smoking-pipes, used by the Indians in the celebration of their solemn festivals, which has obtained for it the name of the calumet eagle. Indeed, so highly are these ornaments prized, that a warrior will often exchange a valuable horse for the tail feathers of a single eagle. The strength of vision of this bird must almost exceed conception, for it can discover its prey and pounce upon it from a height at which it is itself, with its expanded wings, scarcely visible to the human eye. When looking for its prey, it sails in large circles, with its tail spread out, but with little motion of its wings; and it often soars aloft in a spiral manner, its gyrations becoming gradually less and less perceptible, until it dwindles to a mere speck, and is at length entirely lost to the view. A story is current on the plains of the Saskatchewan, of a half-bred Indian, who was vaunting his prowess before a band of his countrymen, and wishing to impress them with a belief in his supernatural powers. In the midst of his harangue, an eagle was observed suspended, as it were, in the air, directly over his head, upon which, pointing aloft with his dagger, which glistened brightly in the sun, he called upon the royal bird to come down. To his own amazement, no less than to the consternation of the surrounding Indians, the eagle seemed to obey the charm, for, instantly shooting down with the velocity of an arrow, it impaled itself on the point of his weapon."

"We saw the Verfalcon often during our journeys over the barren grounds, where its habitual prey is the ptarmigan, but where it also destroys plover, ducks, and geese. In the middle of June 1821, a pair of these birds attacked me as I was climbing in the vicinity of their nest, which was built on a lofty precipice on the borders of Point Lake, in latitude 65½°. They flew in circles, uttering loud and harsh screams, and alternately stooping with such velocity, that their motion through the air produced a loud rushing noise; they struck their claws within an inch or two of my head. I endeavoured, by keeping the barrel of my gun close to my cheek, and suddenly elevating its muzzle when they were in the act of striking, to ascertain whether they had the power of instantaneously changing the direction of their rapid course, and found that they invariably rose above the obstacle with the quickness of thought, showing equal acuteness of vision and power of motion. Although their flight was much more rapid, they bore considerable resemblance to the snowy owl. At the period at which I saw them, the ground was still partially clothed with snow, and the lakes covered with ice; but the Verfalcon, like the *Strix nyctea* of the same districts, is well calculated, from the whiteness of its plumage, for traversing a snowy

waste, without alarming the birds on which it preys. As the Ptarmigan partially migrate southwards in the winter, some of the Verfalcons follow them, and when one pounces down upon a flock, the Ptarmigan endeavour to save themselves by diving instantly into the loose snow, and making their way beneath it to a considerable distance."

From the Falcons we proceed to the Owls. Our next extract is of a different character.

"The Virginian horned owl is found in almost every quarter of the United States, and occurs in all parts of the fur-countries where the timber is of a large size. Its loud and full nocturnal cry, issuing from the gloomy recesses of the forest, bears some resemblance to the human voice, uttered in a hollow sepulchral tone, and has been frequently productive of alarm to the traveller, of which an instance occurred within my own knowledge. A party of Scottish Highlanders, in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, happened, in a winter journey, to encamp after nightfall in a dense clump of trees, whose dark tops and lofty stems, the growth of centuries, gave a solemnity to the scene that strongly tended to excite the superstitious feelings of the Highlanders. The effect was heightened by the discovery of a tomb, which, with a natural taste often exhibited by the Indians, had been placed in this secluded spot. Our travellers, having finished their supper, were trimming their fire preparatory to retiring to rest, when the slow and dismal notes of the horned owl fell on the ear with a startling nearness. None of them being acquainted with the sound, they at once concluded that so unearthly a voice must be the moaning of the spirit of the departed, whose repose they supposed they had disturbed by inadvertently making a fire of some of the wood of which his tomb had been constructed. They passed a tedious night of fear, and with the first dawn of day hastily quitted the ill-omened spot."

Our last extract breathes the true spirit of the naturalist. We are now among the birds of song.

"Within the arctic circle the woods are silent in the bright light of noon-day, but towards midnight, when the sun travels near the horizon, and the shades of the forest are lengthened, the concert commences, and continues till six or seven in the morning. Even in these remote regions, the mistake of those naturalists who have asserted that the feathered tribes of America are void of harmony, might be fully disproved. Indeed, the transition is so sudden from the perfect repose, the death-like silence of an arctic winter, to the animated bustle of summer; the trees spread their foliage with such magical rapidity, and every succeeding morning opens with such agreeable accessions of feathered songsters to swell the chorus—their plumage as gay and unimpaired as when they enlivened the deep-green forests of tropical climes, that the return of a northern spring excites in the mind a deep feeling of the beauties of the season, a sense of the bounty and providence of the Supreme Being, which is cheaply purchased by the tedium of nine months of winter. The most verdant lawns and cultivated glades of Europe, the most beautiful productions of art, fail in producing that exhilaration and joyous buoyancy of mind which we have experienced in treading the wilds of Arctic America, when their snowy covering has been just replaced by an infant but vigorous vegetation. It is impossible for the traveller to refrain, at such moments, from joining his aspirations to the song which every creature around is pouring forth to the great Creator."

Journal of a Tour made in the Years 1828-29 through Styria, Carniola, and Italy, whilst accompanying the late Sir Humphry Davy. By J. J. Tobin, M.D. London, 1832. W. S. Orr.

This volume is so small, that it might have run some risk of escaping our notice, had it not been for the very attractive name of Sir Humphry Davy on the title-page. We opened it, however, with a great many pleasant anticipations—preparing for a peep, in his night-gown and slippers, at the mighty master of fly-fishing and physics. Dr. Tobin assumed in our eyes all the dignity of a Boswell; and we absolutely trembled with eagerness as we read the first lines of the preface—"The following pages were originally intended for the perusal only of my own family and immediate friends."

The advice of those friends to "print it," was given on the judicious grounds, that "a detail of circumstances connected with the last recreations and pursuits of Sir Humphry Davy, must be interesting to the public." No one can deny this *postulatum*; no one can deny that such a detail is given by Dr. Tobin: and no one, therefore, who is in the habit of buying interesting books, can refuse to indulge himself on the present occasion.

The admirers of the philosopher will be glad to learn that on the 23rd of April he mounted a pony and rode down to fish in the Vöckla. They will feel concern, however, that he caught but little fish. The next day, they will be glad again, as Dr. Tobin assures us *he* was, "to see Sir Humphry return in the afternoon bringing with him a few fish, which were dressed for his dinner." On the 26th, the philosopher was so fortunate as to catch some "fine trout, which proved excellent;" and although on the following morning he was "in despair" on account of the rain, yet, about eleven o'clock, it cleared up, and he and the Doctor set off, the former "armed with all his fishing-tackle." The result of this expedition, however, we regret to add, was that "the fish would not bite." After some days' travelling, the adventurers reached a stream of an emerald green colour, where Sir Humphry stopped to fish. The next day he caught fish enough to furnish a dinner; after which they were entertained with a rainbow, and Sir Humphry, with great good-humour, remarked, that "he had never seen such a one before." On the following day he "went out to fish again;" and on the one after, was so successful as to catch "a few trout." Then follows a whole week, in which "Sir Humphry has been fishing every day from eight in the morning till three or four, about which time he usually dines."

But we feel that further specimens of the information given by the Doctor, connected with the last recreations of Sir Humphry, would bring the amount to something very unfair. We have no wish to interfere with the just profits of an author, by filching out the marrow of a book, under pretence of merely reviewing it. After adding, therefore, that in the evenings the two travellers played cards, the Doctor read aloud the 'Tales of the Genii,' the 'Bravo of Venice,' or some such work, and Sir Humphry dictated a treatise, perhaps, "on the existence of a greater quantity of carbon in the ancient world," we shall turn to the personal adventures and opinions of the author.

The Doctor is a connoisseur in architecture, and has pointed out a resemblance, which, we confess with shame, escaped ourselves, between the cathedrals of Antwerp and Strasbourg. It is caused in part, he thinks, by their both having the left tower in an unfinished state. His approbation of the "light and cheerful appearance" of the interior of the former venerable structure, caused by "its having been newly white-washed," is conclusive with regard to his taste. But, perhaps after all, the most interesting part of the volume relates to the vicissitudes and hardships of a traveller's life. On one occasion, they were unable to get even hot water to make their tea; and on another, they had nothing in the world for dinner but pigeon and sausage. The latter circumstance occurred at Neumarkt, on the 20th of April, 1828. On the preceding day, however, they had fallen in with an adventure fully as surprising as this was lamentable. "We had hardly entered the inn," says our author, "when we were visited by a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by tremendous hail." A pretty pair of visitors indeed! What a devil of a rat-tat-tat they would give! Did they send up their names, or announce themselves?

Another incident, more agreeable, whether more surprising or not, was the Doctor's being suspected, by some ladies, of possessing the capacity to write poetry:

"The conversation one day turned upon the following lines, which were found written upon a table in the garden:

*Espérance d'un meilleur sort
Toujours renaissante et trahie,
Voilà l'histoire de ma vie;
Il n'est rien de vrai que la mort!*

Various were the discussions upon them, and the ladies took great pains to discover the author. Who could he be? Who was there in Ischl whose character at all answered to this description? No one could be hit upon with any certainty."

But at last it was determined that it could be no other than the young Englishman who played cards in the evening with Sir Humphry Davy. It was in vain that he denied the fact: it was in vain even that he produced, in evidence, four lines of his own manufacture as stupid as could be—the charge was still persisted in; and, we regret to add, no light has been thrown upon the mysterious circumstance to this day.

The visit to the Grotto of Corneale is well described, and connected also with a personal adventure:—

"I left Trieste early this morning, with a guide, to visit the grotto. After a three hours' walk over two very long and steep hills, from which, however, the view over the Adriatic, with numberless white sails flitting across its waves, the two coasts, the harbour with its shipping, the town and the gardens surrounding it planted with cypresses and olives, was magnificent, we reached Corneale, a small and dirty village, and having here provided ourselves with a man carrying a large lamp, and some boys with candles, proceeded over some very rough and stony fields to the grotto. The entrance was not, as I had expected, in the side of a hill, but in the open fields, and surrounded by a wall. Having lighted our lamp and candles, I took off my coat, and we began the descent down some very slight wooden stairs, the steps and railing of which were, as I afterwards found to my cost, not only slippery, but quite rotten from the continual dripping. The entrance, or hall, is a fine

lofty dark vault, supported in the middle by one enormous stalactite column. Beyond this the cave becomes narrower, and the numberless stalactites of all sizes present a greater variety of forms than it is possible to describe: immense cauliflower-like trunks of trees, fruits; rounds and ovals of all sizes, from that of a marble to globes of many feet in diameter; pyramids rising up from below, and whose bases are lost in profound darkness; myriads of peaks hanging from the roof, often invisible to the eye, are seen at every step.

"These different forms, the deathlike stillness of the cave, the total darkness, except in those points where the guides placed themselves so as to illuminate the most striking objects; deep precipices before and around me, from out of which here and there a single snow-white column rose, formed, and still forming, by the water which falls in measured time from the unseen roof; the flickering lights of our candles,—all this, and the thought of where I should roll to were I to slip from the frail steps into one of those dark abysses, produced an indescribable feeling of awe and fear. Descending further into the cavern, we passed by the *Lion's head*, the *Melon*, the *Death's head*, and two magnificent angle pillars, the one plain, the other beautifully fluted, both of which upon being struck by the hand emit a loud sonorous sound, that thrills mournfully through the surrounding silence. Beyond these we came to the *Waterfall*, one of the finest specimens of stalactites in the cavern; other pillars and pyramids, and last of all to the *Baldachin*, or canopy formed of beautifully fluted hanging stalactites. Beyond this point the cave had not been explored, as the precipices are very dangerous. Even the descent to this spot is not very safe, being often along very narrow slippery paths and rotten stairs, or rather ladders." p. 152—154.

The Doctor, unfortunately, was given to sketching, in season and out of season; and, little aware that he was himself about to form a prominent and extraordinary figure in the view, he sat down to his favourite occupation,—not upon the ground, as an ordinary man of this world would have done, but upon the wooden hand-rail which separates the visitable region from the *terra incognita* beyond. In this situation, says he, "I heard a sudden crack, and felt that I was falling backwards." Has the reader nerve enough to go on?—

"Not being able to recover myself, I slipped from rock to rock, turning twice head over heels, but without injury, and with perfect presence of mind, although I expected every instant to be dashed over the edge of a precipice. As soon as I felt my fall become slower, I stopped myself with my hands, with my head downwards, and my heels in the air."

If another sketcher had been by, this would have been a situation worth any money; and as the Doctor did not dare to move hand or foot, being only too happy to remain stationary anywhere, there would have been ample time. At length,

"The guide came down through the rocks with his lamp to my assistance; with his help I regained my feet, and found that I had been lying on the very verge of a smooth rock, beneath which was a dark and impenetrable abyss. My next fall would probably have been into eternity." p. 155.

An account of the death of Sir Humphry Davy may seem to be somewhat out of keeping with the general tone of this article—but such is the way of the world: smiles and tears succeed each other in natural succession; and after having indulged in a little

good-humoured quizzing, we turn to, perhaps, the only passage in the book which could be read with unaltered gravity:—

"I quitted Sir Humphry yesterday evening, after having read to him as usual, since we left Rome, till about ten o'clock. Our book was Smollett's 'Humphrey Clinker,' and little did I think it was the last book he would ever listen to. He seemed in tolerable spirits, but upon going to bed was seized with spasms, which, however, were not violent, and soon ceased. I left him when in bed, and bidding me 'Good night,' he said I should see him better in the morning.

"Lady Davy and the Doctor also quitted him, and George went to bed in his master's room, as he always had done since Sir Humphry's illness at Rome. At six o'clock this morning, Lady Davy's man-servant came to my room, and told me that Sir Humphry Davy was no more. I replied that it was impossible, and that he probably only lay in a torpor; but I went down to his room instantly, when I found that the servant's words were, alas! but too true. I asked George why he had not called me, when he said that he had sent up, but now found that it had been to a wrong room. He told me that Sir Humphry went to sleep after we had left him, but that he had twice waked, and that at half-past one, hearing him get out of bed, he went to him, when Sir Humphry said he did not want his assistance, and poured some solution of acetate of morphia into a wine glass of water; but this still remained untouched upon his table. George then helped him into bed, where he says he lay quite still till a little after two o'clock, when, hearing him groan, he went to him, and found that he was senseless and expiring. He instantly called up Lady Davy and the Doctor, and sent up, as he believed, to me; but Sir Humphry, he says, never spoke again, and expired without a sigh.

"I had so often, whilst at Rome, seen Sir Humphry lie for hours together in a state of torpor, and to all appearance dead, that it was difficult for me to persuade myself of the truth; but the delusion at length vanished, and it became too evident that all that remained before me of this great philosopher, was merely the cold and senseless frame with which he had worked." p. 240—42.

On Popular Discontent in Ireland. By Philip Molloy, Esq. 1832. Dublin, Milliken & Son; London, Ridgway.

POPULAR discontent, is a phrase but feebly descriptive of the wild and reckless spirit of insurrection, that pervades the peasantry in the south and west of Ireland, though it may be sufficiently applicable to the growing feelings of dissatisfaction, now rapidly increasing in the towns and cities. The pamphlet before us is an able and a temperate production; proposing some remedies for acknowledged evils with becoming modesty, and discussing them in a tone of moderation, by no means common among the writers on Irish subjects. Unfortunately, the author takes it for granted, that his readers are acquainted with the nature and history of the several agrarian insurrections that annually occur in his ill-fated country, and naturally enough accounts for this error by saying, that all these ferocious ebullitions of rustic insanity are perfectly alike in all their features, originate in the same causes, and lead to the same melancholy consequences. But we know not that any single *Irish Jaquerie* has ever been described in print; and as we have, in the course of a life not very long, witnessed some dozen of these rustic

rebellions, we shall endeavour to furnish our readers with a brief sketch of that most extraordinary of all things, "a Rockite campaign."

The Irish parliament, during the period of its mischievous existence, passed some scores of acts regulating the law between landlord and tenant; every one of which added to the power of the proprietors, and no one of which provided any protection for the cultivators. From a variety of other causes, there is in that country little community of feeling between the owner and tiller of the soil; both have long been habituated to consider their interests as mutually hostile, and both are consequently in a perpetual state of warfare, more or less declared. The rents in Ireland are so extravagantly high, that the landlord knows well, that the sums he demands cannot be paid; so that, in estimating the real value of an Irish rent-roll, you must sometimes deduct three-fourths, frequently one half, but seldom less than a third. This practice has arisen partly from the idle pride of making the boast of a large income, and partly from the desire of preserving a despotic power over the tenantry. Another circumstance deserves to be noticed: by immemorial usage, the Irish tenant always owes the rent of the back half-year, in other words, the rent due at March is not claimed until September; and this arrear, significantly termed the *hanging-gale*, is suspended *in terrorem* over the heads of those who may in anywise prove refractory. This system, of course, never works well; but its derangement is usually accelerated by some such circumstances as the following:—A new agent is appointed to an absentee's property; he is at once surrounded by a host of starving wretches, eager to obtain on any terms a bit of ground, and offering the most extravagant remuneration to secure his favour. If the occupying tenants tender "a consideration" of sufficient magnitude, the offers of the claimants are rejected; but if they are unable or unwilling to make up the proper sum, actions are at once brought for arrears, summary processes of ejectment served, and the inhabitants of an entire district unhoused, with little delay. The same thing occurs just as frequently on the estate of the resident landlord, if he be distressed for the payment of a mortgage, a daughter's portion, a debt of honour, or any other inconvenient demand, to which country-gentlemen are liable. The law of the land has provided no remedy for the ejected tenants, and they therefore have recourse to the legislation of Captain Rock. Some wise philosopher defines tyranny to be the union in the same person or persons of the legislative and executive functions of government: if so, Captain Rock is the most perfect of tyrants, for he is at once law-giver, judge, and executioner. The Captain summons a council, the complaints are heard, an edict drawn up, forbidding any person under dreadful penalties, of which death is the least formidable, to take the land in question; and at the same time, the gallant Captain takes the opportunity of publishing his *tariff*, regulating the rent of land, the price of provisions, the composition for tithes, and the priest's dues. Having thus provided regulations for the state, and support for the rival church establishments of England and Rome, Rock descends to minor cares, and publishes a prescription list, containing the names of those

personally obnoxious to himself or his friends, whom he orders to quit the country within a specified time, under penalty of life and limb.

The appearance of these multifarious proclamations fills the country with alarm; agents, landlords, and clergymen, meet to petition the government for new police, an additional military force, or perhaps the insurrection act: the Catholic priest denounces Rock from the altar, and the next Sunday celebrates mass to the empty walls. This is a hint too broad to be misunderstood; he knocks under to the Captain, "eats, not his pudding, but his potato," and holds his tongue. The terror of the agents and landlords does not long continue: some Bobadil amongst them, makes a ludicrous demonstration of valour, and, with the fatuity of a boaster, insults the irritated peasantry, by threatening to change his whips for scorpions. Well and wisely saith the Rev. Sidney Smith, "Dullness turned up with temerity, is a lively all the worse for its facings; and the most tremendous of all things, is the magnanimity of a fool." The peasants accept his threats as a declaration of war: Rock opens his campaign; the boaster is the very first victim; houses are burned, cattle houghed, new tenants tortured or even murdered; famine, fire, and slaughter, work their way in modes that outstrip the powerful descriptions in Coleridge's *Eclogue*. After due deliberation, the government at length interferes; a king's counsel, with a brace of crown solicitors, a troop of dragoons, a large body of police, and three reporters, are sent into the district. The coroner is then summoned to assemble a court of inquest on the last victim; the jury is composed of two, three or perhaps a dozen parties; one half are for a verdict of "wilful murder," the remainder stand out for "justifiable homicide": at length, some one, wiser than the rest, proposes a compromise; all concur in the indisputable fact, that the murdered man has been "found dead," and, having with due gravity recorded this important declaration, the jurors are dismissed, after receiving thanks from the coroner, and a pretty severe lecture from the king's counsel.

Rock's army, meantime, cannot be idle; Lieutenant Starlight or Ensign Moonshine engages in some robbery or burglary, and is taken prisoner; to save his neck and gain a reward he informs against his accomplices in the former murder: they are speedily arrested, and a special commission issued for their trial. The judges come to the assize town with all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war,"—dragoons, Peclers, and javelin-men, surround the carriages—an asthmatic trumpeter blows some nondescript notes before—half the gentry of the county follow behind. From the latter circumstance, the peasants sagaciously conclude, that the law is the friend of the gentlemen, and, consequently, their enemy. The trials soon commence; the counsel for the crown reads his brief and Aristotle's ethics: the counsel for the prisoner diligently studies Joe Miller and Lord Norbury's last joke; some preparatory evidence is given, the witnesses answer the questions with fear and trembling, knowing that Rock's code denounces death not only against all witnesses, but against all their relations: and the fate of the Maras is a well-remembered proof that this sanguinary enactment will not be allowed to remain a dead

letter. Then comes the informer, of course the greatest ruffian of the gang; his direct evidence is pithy and decisive; the counsel for the prisoner rises to cross-examine him; preparatory smiles wrinkle the faces of the audience, for now the *fun* is about to begin. He confesses to a whole host of felonies, and enlivens them with a few supplemental; your hair would stand on end at the black catalogue of enormities, only that they are detailed in such a style of quaint humour that you are convulsed with laughter, and have the whole auditory, judge, jury, and prisoners included, as your companions. The defence is, of course, an *alibi*, or, probably, half a dozen *alibis*, it being enough, in the opinion of the witnesses, to place the prisoners anywhere but on the spot where the crime was perpetrated; the jurors retire, and in a few minutes return with a fatal verdict; sentence is passed, but the protestations of innocence uttered by the prisoners drown the judge's voice, and, as he concludes, the shrieks of female and the curses of male relatives arise with the sound and fury of the tempest.

The day of execution arrives; it is considered a compliment to the sufferers to attend, and, accordingly, the crowd is enormous. The circle round the drop is formed by two companies of foot; cavalry and artillery are posted in reserve: a few of the more violent country gentlemen appear and seem to regard the execution as their triumph; note is taken of their glances of exultation, and their names are recorded in Rock's black book. A week after news arrives that half-a-dozen of the witnesses, or their relations, and two or three active magistrates have been immolated; then come new inquests and commissions, until at length the landlords yield the conflict in despair, the tenants retain their holdings, and Rock departs to the next parish cursed by processes and ejections.

The principal remedies proposed by Mr. Molloy, are emigration and loans, both obviously insufficient to rectify the system we have described. But the author sanguinely anticipates the most beneficial results from the adoption of his proposals, and his reasoning is sufficiently powerful to deserve the notice of all interested in the fate of Ireland.

The Population Returns of 1831; as printed for the House of Commons, &c. &c.: to which is added, an Appendix containing a detailed Description of the Effects of the Cholera Morbus in England, in the 14th Century. With Maps and Plans. London, 1832. E. Moxon.

WE need not say one word of the great value of these Returns; but we must, in justice to Mr. Rickman, express our admiration of their excellent arrangement. We speculated last week on the possibility of giving in our paper some of the interesting results; but, finding the difficulties all but insurmountable, we must refer the curious in statistics to the volume itself, and confine ourselves to the mere summary of the several returns in 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831, by which it appears that

The whole population in England, Wales, and Scotland, was

In 1801	10,942,646
In 1811	12,609,864
In 1821	14,391,631
In 1831	16,537,398

The Appendix contains an account of the great plague which devastated Europe in the fourteenth century, extracted from a History of Edward the Third. The persecutions of the Jews, consequent on it, are bitterly humiliating to us Christian gentlemen:—

"And yet to all these evils there was added one more; for there arose a certain rumour, that there were many poisoners, and especially the Jews, who infected the waters and fountains: from whence the aforesaid pestilence began. Wherefore in many places thousands of Jews and some Christians also, though innocent and blameless, were burnt, slain, and cruelly handled: Whereas, indeed, it was the hand of God which wrought all this for the sins of the world. To resist which unreasonable fury of the Christians against the Jews, Pope Clement twice wrote his Encyclical letters to all archbishops, bishops, and other prelates of the church to stop this fury of the people. But all his endeavours could not prevent the unjust prosecution of this miserable nation; for everywhere, except in the province of Venaissin and about Avignon, the Jews were sought out on all hands to be put to death for poisoners. And particularly this year in Germany, where the plague then reigned, this false rumour made them so odious, that, as Rebdorf witnesses, 12,000 of them were put to death in the city of Mentz. And Albert of Strasburgh writes, that from this rage of the people against them, they were reduced to such despair and madness, that, locking themselves up, they consumed themselves and all that they had with fire."

Letters of Eminent Men, addressed to Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S.; now first published from the originals. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1832. Colburn & Bentley.

IT was the practice of Pope, the poet, to give copies of his satires before published, to sundry of his most sarcastic friends, that they might commit themselves so much with present praise, as to prevent them from indulging in future censure. Some of our booksellers, barring the wit, resemble the poet not a little; when they find a book on their hands, more than usually dull, they pack up a few copies very neatly, and with the publishers' best respects, drop them in before such critics as they dread the most, in the hope of at least escaping without very severe censure, for such an act of friendliness. It is in this way, we greatly fear, that the Correspondence of Ralph Thoresby has been sent so early to us; but it won't do: we have proved the work, and found it wanting, and nothing shall hinder us from saying, that it cannot miss but be exceedingly uninteresting to all save the most resolute antiquarians. In all these numerous letters, there is no allusion to the literature, to the art, to the politics, nay, not even to the gossip, of the day; they are all concerning old roads, old camps, old stocks and old stones; nor are the eminent men, whom the title-page says wrote them, men of any eminence, with the exception of John Evelyn, Bishop Burnet, and Dr. Priestly; the names of the other correspondents are seldom heard of on the earth. To all such men as take delight in reading of things of no use, these volumes will be welcome—they will get new lights to go wrong by—they will see ridiculous theories started for the sake of being ingeniously hunted down; and see that their brethren, an hundred years ago and odd, would pour out their classic and Celtic lore among the

chipped stones and mole-hills of the land, as useless as we can do in these more enlightened days. We had intended to collect a few of these antiquarian crumbs, and spread them before such of our readers as can digest dry pickings, and had made selection of a specimen by Dr. Thomas Gale; but, on consideration, we give insertion to one of a different stamp, from another reverend gentleman—a sort of Katterfelto epistle. It grieves us much to say, that a man who felt so strongly in matters of church and state, died without a bishoprick. Only see how fearfully he writes, February 25, 1695-6:—

From Rev. Richard Stretton.

"DEAR SIR,—These bring you the most amazing, surprising news of God's gracious care over us, and goodness to us, in the discovering, and thereby preventing an hellish cursed plot, as deeply and cunningly laid, and as near to execution, as the Powder-plot was. There were, some say fifty, others say three hundred, ruffians in a conspiracy, under an oath of secrecy and fidelity, to assassinate the King; and it was to have been executed last Saturday at Richmond, as he was shooting; or if that failed, (for he did not go as he was wont,) then on the Lord's-day, as he went to chapel; and the Duke of Berwick, it is said, is in town, ready to have headed the insurrection upon the news of the blow being given; and King James lay at Calais, where Boufflers was ready with twenty thousand men to embark (upon three or four hundred transport ships they had ready, and Du Bart's fleet to be their guard,) as soon as they heard of the King's death. But God hath detected, and thereby, we hope, disappointed their villainous wickedness, and caused their own tongues to fall upon themselves. It is said one of the conspirators discovered it to the King on Wednesday was se'nlight; and the King had two expresses from Flanders last week, one on Wednesday, and the other on Saturday, giving him an account of Boufflers' march to King James at Calais, and the Duke of Berwick and others being here, and wishing the King to take care of his own person; they came from the Duke of Bavaria, or Wittenburgh, or both; and they had drawn down twenty thousand men towards Ostend, to be ready to embark if others did. On Saturday there was a great council sate, and warrants issued out to apprehend the conspirators, several of which are seized. It was said yesterday there were fourteen in Newgate, and the Lord Moon sent to the Tower: they are in a close search for the Duke of Berwick, the Lord Powis, Middleton, and Parker, (that escaped out of the Tower,) and others, that they say are in town. On the Lord's-day, my Lord Mayor and his brethren were sent for to Kensington, and they have ordered the raising of the trained-bands; and auxiliaries to be ready. Yesterday, his Majesty came to the House, and made a speech to both Houses, (which is printed,) acquainting them with the discovery of this hellish conspiracy; both Houses agreed on an address, wherein they acknowledge him the only rightful King of England, and congratulate his deliverance, and assure him they will stand by him with their lives and fortunes to secure his person and support his government, against King James, and all his enemies, at home or abroad; and if he should die an untimely death, (which God forbid!) they will revenge his death upon his enemies. The Commons ordered an association to be drawn up to the same purpose, which they agreed to, and were to subscribe this day; and have ordered a Bill to be brought in, that if anything happen to his Majesty, the Parliament in being shall not be dissolved till the next rightful heir shall do it. They have addressed the King to take care of his sacred person, and to secure all them that he may sus-

pect will disturb his government; and have ordered a Bill to be brought in to suspend the Habeas Corpus Bill, that he may secure them: and several other good things they did; the best day's work that ever they yet made. They sate till seven, and then went both Houses in a body with their address to Kensington. Our Common Council met twice this day to finish their address. The Earl of Romney is sent down into Kent to raise their militia, and the Earl of Scarborough into Sussex, to do the like. Admiral Russel is gone into the Downs, and all the men-of-war sent to sail with him. It is hoped there are forty or fifty men-of-war rendezvoused there by this time: we have good hopes their mischievous designs will be prevented. My hearty love and service to you and your's, and to all friends. I commit you to God, and rest, in haste, your's,

"R. S."

Anything from the hand of such a man as John Evelyn is welcome: the following passage is very curious, the date is 1699:—

"The narrative of the wonderful cures done by the famous Stroker is very particular, and worth recording for the strange operation and power of the animal spirits, so vigorous in his constitution, as by a certain sanative virtue to be able to vanquish and put to flight such troublesome distempers; especially where the imagination entertains a confidence in the agent applying and pursuing the affected part with his warm and balsamic touch. But concerning the extraordinary effects of such masterly apotheca, I have given some instances in my Discourse of Physiognomy; and by a print which I somewhere have of Mr. Grotius, he seemed to have a very remarkable countenance, which denoted some [thing] extraordinary. But to my observation, the cures he commonly pretended to were most effectually on tumours, aches, rheumatism, and other wandering distempers; but did not extend to fevers, agues, pleurisies, &c. where the habit is vitiated. However, I say, the history is by no means to be slighted. He was some time with Mr. Digby, (son to the late famous Sir Kenelm,) in Rutlandshire, where he was much followed; but what you report of his doing cures by laying his glove on, and using spittle to the ears of the deaf, looks towards miracle,—the handkerchiefs and aprons brought from St. Paul, and our blessed Saviour's cure, Mark vii., on the deaf man; to which I can say nothing, only that the Saluadores in Spain are reported to do the like stupendous cures by their breath alone. But these particulars belong to further inquiry. Worthy Sir,

"I remain your very humble and obliged Servant,

"J. EVELYN."

As an appendix to these letters, there is a sort of a tour in Scotland in 1677, by one Thomas Kirk, a relation of Thoresby's: the man, by his own account, was continually tippling, and sometimes drunk, which is reason sufficient for his having seen not only trees, but whole groves and forests of grown timber: we are afraid that the northern woods wandered like those of Dunsinane. We shall select a few characteristic scraps from the joltings of this southron roisterer. Look at the modern Athens and its people of the year 1677:—

"In our way to Edinburgh we saw many fine seats: every half mile we saw a fine house in a grove of trees. We went through North Barwick, where the forementioned high hill stands. It is almost like a sugar-loaf: it goes up very steep on every side into a sharp point, and is very high upon a narrow bottom. It is to be seen at a very great distance. Thence to Aberlady, to Preston Pans, a very long town; thence

to Musselborough, where alighted, to see my Lord Twadall's house; the gardens are in good order, the house is unfurnished, but the rooms have good roofs, some painted, some plastered. From hence to Edinburgh. The streets were almost melted with bonfires, and full of tradesmen and apprentices, every one straightly imprisoned in stiff new clothes, and so feathered with ribbons, that they would all have flown like birds of Paradise, had they not been fast tied to cold iron, a musket and a sword to secure them. The continual noise of the great guns from the Castle, and the flame that enclosed them on every side hardened them so much, that they attempted to fire their own engines, which they then did with so much freedom and carelessness, that they could fire one way and look another. We lighted at the foot of the Canny-gate; and, after we had drunk as much as we thought would secure us from the flame, we ventured to run the gauntlet of fire, swords, pikes, and guns: with much ado we passed it once with safety; but in our return, we scaped very narrowly, the smoke having like to overcome us. Such a confusion, I must needs say, I never saw before, every day while we stayed here. We frequently met here a sword, there a pike or gun walking home to their own masters, and the poor holiday heroes were as much deplumed as Esop's jay, having no feathers remaining, but a knot of red and yellow, or blue, hanging loosely on the cock side of their bonnets, which, if they hold together, must be worn till this time twelvemonth, whereby they are to challenge their places. We washed ourselves with wine, for fear some sparks should remain to destroy, and ventured to bed: the bottom of my bed was loose boards, one laid over another, with sharp edges, and a thin bed upon it. I ken I got but little sleep that night." ii. 416-17.

In old Aberdeen, a scholar of Mareschal College quizzed the tippling stranger:—

"Thursday 14th, we went to the old town, about a mile more north, on the River Don; here is the Principal College, much exceeding the other; there is one piece of new building in it, seven stories high, and four rooms and studies on a floor. We were treated by Mr. Middleton, the master of the college. We saw the cathedral church, not far from the college; it has been built in form of our churches, the steeple in the middle, and two small steeples on the west end, but the choir is all pulled down to spoil the form of the cross from the church to the tavern. A scholar that was with us showed us a smooth black stone, like a ring; it was two inches over, and as thick as one's little finger; he said it was found in a raven's nest; and if one take a raven's eggs and boil them and lay them in the nest again, she will fetch such a stone as this to recover them again." ii. 428.

The following is at once curious and characteristic: the traveller is at Dunrobin, the seat of the Earl of Sutherland:—

"On Thursday the 5th, before we were well ready, the Laird of Gordon, an ingenious young gentleman, and Sheriff of the Shire, come to us from the Earl's house and invited us up thither. The house stands, as many others here, on the top of a round hill; the Earl is retired, and reads and prays much: we dined with him, and had a scraping fiddler with us all the time. After dinner we mounted for Dorno, but not one of our men were sober to go along with us: for our groom had pretended he was of the same name as my Lord's butler, and they cannot make too much of one of their own name. We had Sir Robert Gordon's (the aforementioned Laird of Gordonstown) company to Dorno. A little before we entered the town, we observed a stone pillar about three yards high, the top not unlike a catherine-wheel, in memory of a battle fought there by the Danes. In the town are the

walls of an old house of the Earl's, and a pretty church, miserably ruinous; there is scarce any roof left upon it; we were told, that about sixty years ago happened a great earthquake under the church, which raised up all the pillars on the north side thereof, and threw them over the wall without harming it. There was a court kept this day in the house where we lodged, and some of the best of the company came to us to wait of the Sheriff; they entertained us with several discourses of their own country; they told us of a sort of people that dwelt amongst them that had a foresight of things to come, that could see dangers that should befall men sometime beforehand; several stories were told us to confirm the truth thereof. One gentleman in the company, who had been an excellent gunner, told us that he went to a house whither he had made a train to draw foxes, and he intended (unknown to the house) to watch them and shoot them; a little child in the house cried out that he saw strange flashes of fire several times; the gentleman understood this, and took this as a good omen; in short, he fired as many times as the child cried out, and killed as many foxes. They foresees sad accidents that befall men whom they never saw, and can describe them but with great deal of terror to themselves, for they would gladly be quit of this faculty. The gentleman told us that they believed their ancestors had been witches, and got that boon of the devil: that such and such of their posterity should have that particular favour from him, to be tormented with a foresight of horrible spectacles, &c. We were told by the same gentleman, that a great rock in Stranarvorn into the sea, upon a place thereof (above twenty or thirty years ago), in the dark, was seen a shining light, and the seamen have often endeavoured to mark the place where they saw it, but could never find the place by daylight, the place being inaccessible. They supposed it to be some carbuncle which was now overgrown with reeds." ii. 441-2.

Had these letters been from the pen of persons truly eminent—some, nay, perhaps all of them, would have been read with pleasure: but we care little about the lucubrations of the little known or the nameless. Anything from the mind of a man of genius is made welcome, not for its own value, but because it bears the stamp of a spirit which excelled in other things. A letter from the pen of an obscure writer, which we read and throw away, we would treasure up as a sacred thing, did it come from one of the great heirs of fame. We need say no more; these volumes will read a lesson in stronger language than ours to the publishers, else we are greatly deceived.

Le Livre des Cent-et-Un. Vol. III. Paris, 1832. Ladvocat.

[Second Notice.]

THE following translations are from Paulmier's interesting and curious paper, entitled, 'Une Séance de Sourds-Muets.'

A Public Day at the Deaf and Dumb Institution.

"On a fine spring morning, in the season of roses and of lilacs, you may see crowds from every part of Paris, hastening to this institution through the beautiful gardens of the Palais Royal, the Tuileries, the Luxembourg, and the Jardin des Plantes. Parents with deaf and dumb children, boys and girls from the boarding-schools, parties of foreigners and of natives; citizens, nobles, ambassadors, bishops, deputies, cardinals, peers, princes, and even kings, form, in the great hall of the institution, a motley assembly. On the right hand side of this vast apartment are seated the female deaf and dumb pupils, from the ages of five to eighteen, in

dresses of pure white, with sashes of sky blue; on the left are placed the males, in grey uniforms, with sky blue facings.

"What serenity appears in those young and lovely features! What vivacity and rapidly-varying expression in the countenances! The happiness of innocence beams from their looks as they use those gestures, rapid as lightning, to which they are forced to have recourse as a substitute for words. Poor children! destined never to hear the accents of a brother, of a kind and tender mother, or a voice still sweeter, which sends a thrill of delight through the heart! Never will they enjoy the delights of harmony—for them valleys have no echo—for them there is no soft murmur of the brook. They never will feel agitation at the sound of a falling leaf, or the rustling of a silk gown upon the outskirts of a wood. In vain does the nightingale chaunt its vernal lay—in vain do the feathered songsters of summer utter their hymns of joy—all is lost to them. The distant and religious sound of bells, which seems to ascend as it grows fainter, and to carry its last harmonies to heaven—all the voices and treasures of melody—all the beauties and delights of sound—are to these interesting children as if they did not exist.

"Here are the twin brothers, Martin, born at Marseilles, both deaf and dumb; alike in stature, countenance, and even in habits. So perfect, indeed, is their resemblance to each other that it is impossible to distinguish them. They are artists, and are well known at Paris as gaining their livelihood by portrait-painting. * * *

"These amiable twins have the most polished manners, and what is still better, honest and upright minds. They are accompanying, with the most respectful attention, as you perceive, that tall and handsome woman. She is their countrywoman, and, although advanced in years, retains many of the graces of youth. She is a mother, and her retinue is composed of twelve children, six of either sex, grouped around her. The ages of the latter, born in pairs, are six, eight, ten, twelve, sixteen, and eighteen, and by a strange freak of nature they speak, or are deaf and dumb, in alternate pairs. * * *

"How marvellous is our alphabet! It would seem the very last effort of human genius! That beautiful conception of reducing the elements of speech to a very small number, and representing them by as many characters or letters, is a master-piece of the human mind. * * * With the organ of speech, man has received from the Deity, voice, accent, song, and words,—which he can exercise either separately or together. He can lament with the mourner, rejoice with the light-hearted, roar with the lion, coo with the dove, sing with the morning bird, whistle with the winds, sigh with his beloved, and speak with man. * * * The language of action, or gesture, by giving a body to thought, and speaking as it were by things, brings abstract ideas under the dominion of the imagination and of the senses. This principle of natural mnemonics renders the abstract and the concrete inseparable.

"Ask a pupil, without giving him time for reflection, to show you *one*. He will immediately present his *stick*, his *hat*, or any other object. Observe to him that he is showing you an *object*, and not the number *one* alone, and separated from every object; and he will hold up his finger, to which you will make the same objection. He will next try a line in the air; but this line leaves no trace; and even if it were imprinted, permanent and visible, it would only show him the impossibility of designating the number *one* distinct from any physical object. Hence he becomes convinced that he cannot separate the abstract from the concrete, and that such separation is perhaps impossible to be conceived. * * *

"It is, in our country, one of the defects of the age, to separate *instruction* from *education*.

How absurd and foolish is it to consider the mind of an unfortunate child as a repository into which everything may be crammed, without paying any attention to his heart, to the direction of his inclinations, or to the cultivation of those dispositions upon which his future happiness depends.

"Education and instruction ought to be inseparable. If it be impossible to give to infancy a clear conception of the greatness of man's destiny, of the immortality of his soul, and the eternity of his future life—let us at least attempt to give him some notion of these things."

We shall close this paper with the extraordinary answers to questions proposed to some of the elder pupils on the public day, to which M. Paulmier's article refers.

"Q. 'What is eternity?'"

"Answer by Massieu. 'It has neither birth, death, youth, infancy, nor old age. It is to-day, without either yesterday or to-morrow; the circular day without succession, the non-age.'

"Q. 'What is a difficulty?'"

"Answer by the same. 'A possibility with an obstacle.'

"Q. 'What is ingenuousness?'"

"Answer by Clerc. 'Ingenuousness is being natural, frank, and candid, without cunning or disguise, and free from subterfuge in word or action. Peasants and country people are generally simple, because their mind is not cultivated; children and youths of good family, who have been well educated, are ingenuous, because their hearts are not corrupt.'

"Q. 'What do you understand by *idea*, *thought*, *judgment*, *reasoning*, and *method*?'"

"Answer by Berthier. '*Idea* is the result of attention, and paints the object to the mind; *thought* unites two or more ideas in comparison; *judgment* decides upon their value; *reasoning* connects these comparisons and judgments, and deduces one from the other; and *method* is the art of doing anything according to rule.'

"Q. 'What is grace?'"

"Answer by Gazan. 'Grace is something divine diffused over the whole body, and apparent in motion and gesture.'

"'Grace is a gift—a favour.'

"'Grace is the aid of divine inspiration.'

"Q. 'What is modesty?'"

"Answer by the same. 'Modesty, the most interesting of virtues, colours the brow of an honest man, or that of a young virgin, with a delightful carnation. It is a legitimate antipathy, evinced by an amiable blush, at the sight of anything repugnant to chastity.'

"Q. 'What is clemency?'"

"Answer by Berthier. 'A magnificent pardon.'

"Q. 'What is the difference between a handsome woman and a pretty one?'"

"Answer by Gazan. 'A handsome woman has a powerful charm which excites our admiration. She strikes us by the noble and regular proportions of her body, and by the roses and lilies of her complexion. A pretty woman pleases and interests us by the delicacy of her features and the grace of her manners. She is like a jewel which we love more than we admire. A handsome woman is handsome only in one way; a pretty one is pretty in a thousand.'

"Q. 'What is the difference betwixt *fine* and *magnificent*?'"

"Answer by the same. 'For works of art or productions of the mind to be *fine*, they must have regularity, a noble simplicity and grandeur; but *magnificence* adds to them an extraordinary splendour arising from an assemblage of perfections and proportions, which we cannot help admiring. A union of the *fine* and the *magnificent*, produces the *sublime*, which elevates, ravishes, and transports us. The sublime is always natural.'

"Q. 'What is happiness?'"

"Answer by the same. To taste of the enjoyments of life, is only pleasure. Happiness is the peace of conscience."

The Mythology of Ancient Greece and Italy. By T. Keightley. London, 1832. Whittaker, Treacher & Arnot.

THE works on Mythology hitherto used in English schools, were perfectly disgraceful to literature; they combined the several demerits of stupidity, absurdity, and indelicacy; badly planned and worse executed, they rendered a pleasing study the most painful of tasks; and useful, almost necessary, information, at once idle and dangerous. Thus the subject remained full half a century after the researches of distinguished scholars, both in Germany and France, had shown that the classical legends, independent of their poetic merit, were essentially connected with the history of the human mind, and the progress of civilization. Mr. Keightley's octavo, of which the little work before us is an abridgment, was the first effort made to furnish English students with a manual of mythology at once complete and unobjectionable: unlike most first efforts, it left little or nothing to be done by those who may follow in the same track. We bestowed on it our meed of approbation in our 180th number, and can only now add, that this smaller work fully maintains the character of its predecessor, and deserves universal adoption in all places of education. To the softer sex this treatise is a boon of no small magnitude and merit; for it details all the legends to which poets so constantly refer, without raising an image that would sully the most pure, or using a phrase that would offend the most fastidious.

The embellishments have been designed by Brooke, and display all the spirit and vitality for which the works of that artist are so conspicuous. We were particularly struck with the sly humour in the delineation of Pan, and the mingled grace and majesty of Apollo driving the solar chariot.

From Mr. Keightley we expect another work, some thoughts of which, from the first sentence of his preface, appear to have floated vaguely through his mind;—we mean an English Mythology,—a collection of the nursery legends that delighted ourselves and our ancestors, when there were literary "giants in the land." These are now fast disappearing from the eyes of the rising generation; Whittington, Hickathrift, Tom Thumb, Griselda, are names scarcely known to the children of the present day; yet are these tales an essential part of our literature, and in every respect superior to the trumpery *nouvellettes* for which they have been laid aside. A little volume, about the size of that before us, on our English legends, would be a valuable acquisition, and we know of no person better able to supply it, than the author of 'The Fairy Mythology.' There may be some who would deem the compilation of these legends a task beneath them; Mr. Keightley is not among the number—no one knows better than he does, that though the difficulties and merits of such a work "may want interpreters to the multitude, they will be thoroughly appreciated by the initiated."

The French Poetical Gift, or, Cours Élémentaire de Littérature, from Malherbe to Voltaire. London, 1831. Fenwick de Porquet.

AN elegant little volume, intended to introduce the young student of French literature to some knowledge of the earlier and less known French Poets, as well as those more familiar to the English reader. The selections are prefaced with a slight introductory sketch of each author. The medallion portraits we cannot praise; they

are grim ugly things; otherwise the book is elegantly got up. The suggestion relative to the publication of Voltaire's works is worth attention. On the whole, 'The French Poetical Gift' is a pleasant, useful little book.

Anatomical Atlas. By Doctor Weber, of Bonn; with the text translated into English. Parts I. to IV. London, Schloss.

WHEN a childish prejudice, and the dreadful consequences of it, make dissection more and more costly and difficult every day, we cannot but feel great pleasure at the publication of plates so excellent as these. They are large as life; and in consequence, the minute parts, which in other plates are imperfectly developed, are here accurately shown. They will, we are persuaded, be found most valuable, and we strongly recommend them as useful to the young student.

Illustrations of Political Economy, No. I. Life in the Wilds; a Tale. By Harriet Martineau. London, 1832. Fox.

Harriet Martineau is undoubtedly a very sensible woman—she belongs, we suspect, to a very sensible, though not a very imaginative sect. She is undoubtedly of this age, and the utilitarian school. How far these illustrations will instruct young people in political economy, we have not yet determined; neither have we at all decided on the value of such information. The way in which the necessities and comforts of life may be best procured, seems to us—but we speak at a venture—a becoming study for parents, to enjoy them is the especial happiness of childhood. This work is, however, likely to be popular; for the instruction, if gleaned, is sound and healthful, and the stories extremely interesting, whether the instruction be gleaned or not.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

A THOUGHT.

It is not in the quality of Love

To be relieved from human error quite:

Nor quite unsullied is yon Orb above,

That fills the o'er-hanging heavens with youthful light,

And, from its vast and ever-burning fountains, Sheds on the slumbering earth those fruitful showers,

Which bid her burst forth in a dream of flowers, And clothe her meads with green, and from her mountains

Shoot forests forth, in joy. And yet, O Love! O Sun!

What worlds were ours (of matter and of mind), Did ye not both your radiant journeys run, And touch us with your brightness pure and kind!

B.

ON MODERN FEMALE CULTIVATION.—No. II.

WE concluded last week with declaring our opinion, that women are so far from being over-educated, that they are not educated half enough. Over-accomplished they may be; but the boasted *education* they now receive, is meagre and contemptible, if the intent of education be a perfect development of mind and character, in accordance with the native bias of both—if every human being ought to consider the SPIRIT within him in the light of a kingdom he is to rule over, a domain he is to cultivate, a trust of which he is to give account—if the educator and the educated ought to consider themselves fellow-workers in the great business of becoming wise in order to be useful. Where there is mind, no such thing is possible as over-education, in the high meaning of the

term. What we really labour under in practice, is the prevalence of inappropriate education—one that has no reference to difference of intellect or station. What we labour under in theory, is the prevalence of mean or inflated notions relative to the nature of education, its power, effects, and instruments; and, as subordination is the complexion of female life, women suffer most, alike from the practice and the theory. The worth of all instruction which can be bought and sold, which books and professors can impart, is exaggerated; that instruction which would nurture the faculties and encourage them to act vigorously for themselves, is feared and disliked. There is Mahomedanism in our system; memory answers to the Koran, manner to the Prophet, and society to Mecca: these are sanctioned, cultivated, and worshipped; but of anything beyond these there is intolerance. Of what is styled *over-education*, how much has reference to aught beyond making the pupil pleasing and prosperous? In what is called our excessive cultivation, of what is the portion of *mind* really cultivated? Amongst the highly-finished young women who have spent eight or nine years as the recipients of tuition, how many shall we find who have thought out for themselves a single thought, or have any notion of the value of knowledge beyond the mere credit of possessing it? how many are acquainted with the responsibility involved by the possession of an understanding—be it great or be it small? There is Mahomedanism in our system, and faithful answers to these queries would prove it: a faithful answer would prove, that we cultivate our women to the highest pitch that can make them fascinating, with a careful abstinence from that which would make them wise. We overlay the idol with gold, but should grieve if a Prometheus gave it life. We deprive the nightingale of sight, in order that it may sing us sweeter songs; we render the captive weak, and demand him to be strong as the free; we stimulate his feelings to madness, and expect from him the exercise of reason; we spread our treasures before him, and mock if he ask to share them; we deprive him of liberty and bid him rejoice in his prison. This may be a metaphorical way of putting the case, but is it very far from the truth? Is the painted, gilded, varnished thing which we call education, and which some call over-education, worth presenting to the minds and hearts of a race of beings as influential as women?—and, remembering the conventional morality in which, for the most part, a female is reared—the veil that is kept between herself and the knowledge of her true position in society—the little truth that she hears whilst hearing it might avail her—the enervating treatment she habitually receives even from the nursery, till at least half way towards the grave,—remembering this, and much more, are we justified in attributing her faults and follies primarily to herself?—There are many to divide the blame amongst; we will begin with the poets and novelists, who, like the enchanters of old times, can effect more mischief in a few minutes than may be undone with long and weary toil. Women, and the influence of women, have been to them such fertile themes, that, if all their descriptions were fairly copied out, we might cover the world with them; the globe would be an

entire sheet of foolscap—the real “Ladies’ Magazine.” But amidst all the bevy of angels they have drawn, how passing few of them have been rational creatures; their heroines have mainly become such personifications of tears, love, death, poetry, and helplessness, that an honest man, linked to such in real life, would surely be at his wits’ ends before the end of the honey-moon. They have mainly erected the standard of feminine excellence, and their motto has been, “*La vertu—c’est le dévouement*,”—as false and fatal a one as may well be found. Yet in various applications of this sentiment consist the ethics of imagination. Therein, the two great duties of womanhood are, being beautiful, and being devoted; the two great occupations, loving and dying; and the exceeding great reward consists in every self-willed exhibition of impassioned feeling being made a decoy for sympathy and admiration. Examine the whole range of imaginative literature, and, considering its matchless sway over human sensibility, and the matchless power and beauty of mind employed in its construction, has it done, or has it failed in, its duty?—has it thrown its influence into the scale of sacred right, or of pleasing wrong?—has it seduced or strengthened—has it done justice to, has it benefited Women? We trow not. They have received from poetry and fiction lip homage and knee reverence, adulation, incense, every concomitant of idol-worship, with *only* the absence of fervent rational respect. The process of degradation has taken the semblance of adoration; compliments to their love has veiled contempt of their understanding—for one female portrait that society would be benefited by its having life, how many hundreds have we who would only be less intensely, ethereally useless than the ghost of a rose or the phantasm of a lily. Earth is too gross for these essences of womanhood. This is only one point in which poetry and fiction may be arraigned on behalf of the female character: over against the land of sentiment lies the kingdom of heartlessness, and the topographers of this kingdom, otherwise fashionable novelists, have assuredly done *their* best to erect a low standard of womanly excellence. The bowl-and-dagger-and-wrapping-gown ladies were bad enough, but all good angels keep us from the nether millstones of quality!—Enough on this subject until next week.

MUNDEN, THE COMEDIAN.

A brief Memoir in a paper like the *Athenæum*, is due to departed genius, and would certainly have been paid to Munden, whose fame is so interwoven with all our early and pleasant recollections, even though we had nothing to add to the poor detail of dates and facts already registered in the daily papers. The memory of a player, it has been said, is limited to one generation; he

—struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more!

But this cannot be true, seeing that many whose fame will soon be counted by centuries, yet live to delight us in Cibber; and that others, of our latter days, have been embalmed, in all their vital spirit, by Elia himself; in whose unrivalled volume *Cockleup* is preserved as in amber, and where Munden will live for aye, making mouths at Time and Oblivion. We were thus apologizing to ourselves for the unworthy epitaph we were about to scratch on perishable paper to this

inimitable actor, when we received the following letter, which our readers will agree with us is worth a whole volume of bald biographies.

To the Editor of the *Athenæum*.

DEAR SIR,—Your communication to me of the death of Munden made me weep. Now, Sir, I am not of the melting mood. But, in these serious times, the loss of half the world’s fun is no trivial deprivation. It was my loss (or *gain* shall I call it?) in the early time of my play-going, to have missed all Munden’s acting. There was only he, and Lewis at Covent Garden, while Drury Lane was exuberant with Parsons, Dodd, &c., such a comic company as, I suppose, the stage never showed. Thence, in the evening of my life, I had Munden all to myself, more mellowed, richer perhaps than ever. I cannot say what his change of faces produced in me. It was not acting. He was not one of my “old actors.” It might be better. His power was extravagant. I saw him one evening in three drunken characters. Three Farces were played. One part was *Dosey*—I forget the rest—but they were so discriminated, that a stranger might have seen them all, and not have dreamed that he was seeing the same actor. I am jealous for the actors who pleased my youth. He was not a Parsons or a Dodd, but he was more wonderful. He seemed as if he could do anything. He was not an actor, but something better, if you please. Shall I instance *Old Foresight*, in ‘Love for Love,’ in which Parsons was at once the old man, the astrologer, &c. Munden dropped the old man, the doater—which makes the character—but he substituted for it a moon-struck character, a perfect abstraction from this earth, that looked as if he had newly come down from the planets. Now, *that* is not what I call acting. It might be better. He was imaginative; he could impress upon an audience an *idea*—the low one perhaps of a leg of mutton and turnips; but such was the grandeur and singleness of his expressions, that that single expression would convey to all his auditory a notion of all the pleasures they had all received from all the legs of mutton and turnips they had ever eaten in their lives. Now, this is not acting, nor do I set down Munden amongst my old actors. He was only a wonderful man, exerting his vivid impressions through the agency of the stage. In one only thing did I see him *act*—that is, support a character; it was in a wretched farce, called ‘Johnny Gilpin,’ for Dowton’s benefit, in which he did a cockney; the thing ran but one night; but when I say that Liston’s *Lubin Log* was nothing to it, I say little; it was transcendent. And here, let me say of actors—*ancient* actors—that of Munden, Liston was used to speak, almost with the enthusiasm due to the dead, in terms of such allowed superiority to every actor on the stage, and this at a time when Munden was gone by in the world’s estimation, that it convinced me that *artists* (in which term I include poets, painters, &c.), are not so envious as the world think. I have little time, and therefore enclose a criticism on Munden’s *Old Dosey* and his general acting, by a gentleman, who attends less to these things than formerly, but whose criticism I think masterly.

C. LAMB.

“Mr. Munden appears to us to be the most classical of actors. He is that in high farce,

which Kemble was in high tragedy. The lines of these great artists are, it must be admitted, sufficiently distinct—but the same elements are in both—the same directness of purpose, the same singleness of aim, the same concentration of power, the same iron casing of inflexible manner, the same statue-like precision of gesture, movement and attitude. The hero of farce is as little affected with impulses from without, as the retired Prince of Tragedians. There is something solid, sterling, almost adamantine in the building up of his most grotesque characters. When he fixes his wonder-working face in any of its most amazing varieties, it looks as if the picture were carved out from a rock, by Nature in a sportive vein, and might last for ever. It is like what we can imagine a mask of the old Grecian Comedy to have been, only that it lives, and breathes, and changes—His most fantastical gestures are the grand ideal of farce. He seems as though he belonged to the earliest and the stateliest age of Comedy, when instead of superficial foibles and the airy varieties of fashion, she had the grand asperities of man to work on, when her grotesque images had something romantic about them, and when humour and parody were themselves heroic. His expressions of feeling and bursts of enthusiasm are among the most genuine which we have ever felt. They seem to come up from a depth of emotion in the heart, and burst through the sturdy casing of manner with a strength which seems increased ten-fold by its real and hearty obstacle. The workings of his spirit seem to expand his frame, till we can scarcely believe that by measure it is small; for the space which he fills in the imagination is so real that we almost mistake it for that of corporal dimensions. His *Old Dosey*, in the excellent farce of ‘Past Ten o’Clock,’ is his grandest effort of this kind—and we know of nothing finer. He seems to have a “heart of oak” indeed! His description of a sea-fight is the most noble and triumphant piece of enthusiasm which we remember. It is as if the spirits of a whole crew of nameless heroes “were swelling in his bosom.” We never felt so ardent and proud a sympathy with the valour of England as when we heard it. May health long be his, thus to do our hearts good—for we never saw any actor whose merits have the least resemblance to his even in species: and when his genius is withdrawn from the stage, we shall not have left even a term by which we can fitly describe it.

T. N. T.”

AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

THIS subject has of late years excited so much interest and curiosity, that scarcely a year has elapsed, without an attempt having been made, either by our own countrymen, or by some of our scientific neighbours (the French), to explore a country which has yet much left for the ardent spirit of enterprising discovery to adventure in; and before the travels of our gallant countryman Lander are yet even issued from the press, two gentlemen, as we mentioned some time since, not sent out by government, but at their own expense, are upon the point of setting off from this country, with the hopes of making further important discoveries. We are now enabled to state, that the projected plan of this expedition is to land at Benin on the Western Coast, and prosecute from thence the route to Funda:—from that place to proceed in a north-easterly direction, until they shall meet with the Bahr el Abiad, and to follow the course of that river from its rise to its termination. From what we can collect from Lord Prudhoe’s statement, the Turks have already reached as far as 27° western longitude (from Greenwich); and Funda being in 8° northern latitude and 9° western longitude, the adventurous travellers will have 1200 miles of terra incognita, through which they must

make good their perilous way as best they can. Should they be successful in penetrating across this unknown tract of country, they will have accomplished what is wanting to complete the geographical knowledge of this long-hidden quarter of the globe; for the late travels of the adventurous Richard Lander, in the direction which he pursued, and also the interesting discoveries made by Mons. Douville in Southern Africa, have left, we may venture to say, the proposed object of the present expedition, as the only desideratum now required to satisfy the minds of the scientific upon this subject of geographical inquiry. From such discovery, we are naturally led to hope for results not only satisfactory to the scientific and curious, but also beneficial to the cause of commerce in general and moral improvement; for could those two mighty streams, the Niger and the Nile, which have hitherto been but as sealed waters, be found serviceable for the purposes of intercourse and commerce, the benighted continent of Africa might then eventually hope to receive the blessings of civilization and Christianity.

It might perhaps not be uninteresting or unacceptable to our readers, to be informed, who are the individuals who have undertaken this arduous and perilous enterprise—their names, as we have stated before, are Coulthart and Tyrwhitt—the former a gentleman educated at Eton and Oxford, (at which University he took a very honourable degree,) and was afterwards called to the bar, but had from his boyhood imbibed a love of enterprise and geographical discovery, particularly for that part of the world which he has now selected as the field of his exertions. The latter is a gentleman also brought up to the legal profession, and whose turn of mind had led him to the same object. Through an introduction to the Geographical Society, and by its representation to government, these gentlemen have met with every encouragement their intrepidity and zeal have entitled them to, by having received from His Majesty's government some valuable scientific instruments, and by being furnished with open letters to all the Governors on the coast, with recommendations and letters also to many of the native Chiefs of the interior, and to the Pasha of Egypt, through which country they must necessarily return, should they succeed in accomplishing the object of their wishes.

MEMOIR OF A SUICIDE.

It is only a short time since Henry Neele, the author of the English series of the 'Romance of History,' closed his career by self-murder, at a time when the vista had just opened sufficiently to present a fair prospect of success. We are now appalled by another suicide, in the same profession and rank of life, the perpetrator of which was a still younger man—indeed, a mere youth—whose introduction to the public seemed, like Neele's, to be full of good omen.

Mr. Fletcher—the circumstances of whose death our readers have been made acquainted with by the newspapers—was educated at Cambridge, and passed through his studies, the proximate object of which was a wranglership, with credit. When just about to receive the reward of his labours, he was guilty of one of those imprudences so frequent in College life, and so seldom attended with any permanent or disastrous effect. He was absent at the meeting of the council, and it was discovered that he had not been in his apartment the whole night. He had gone on a pleasure party the day before, and was accidentally detained beyond the moment when his appearance would have passed unquestioned. Expulsion stared him in the face on one hand; and, on the other, the as dreadful fate of being thrown back from the object of his ambition for a space of time equal to that which he had already spent in

efforts to obtain it. Between this Scylla and Charybdis he was lost. He left College, abandoned all his plans and pursuits in life, and came to London, a friendless and almost aimless adventurer.

It is probable, that in the whole of this proceeding, he acted contrary to the advice of his relations, and that, in consequence, they left the young man to his fate; but, on so painful and delicate a subject, it is only fair to say, that this is little more than a surmise. Shortly after his arrival in London, he was so fortunate as to obtain the situation of assistant in a respectable school, where he continued for two years, and up to last Christmas. During this interval of two years, he published a poem, which displayed at least the evidences of an elegant mind, and contributed to some of the periodicals. But it was to the impression made upon his imagination by the glorious struggles of the Poles, that he owed any literary distinction, attained by his name. He produced a 'History of Poland,' which met with almost universal approbation; and few persons, on reading its manly and impressive pages, could have supposed that the author was a shy and retiring youth of one-and-twenty.

At this time the bookselling trade appeared to be on the brink of ruin. A panic, whether connected with real or imaginary danger, had been spread abroad in the literary world and its dependent professions. Booksellers were afraid to sell their commodity to one another, and afraid, therefore, to buy the materials of which it is manufactured. In the department of imaginative writing, more especially, a depression prevailed which threatened to recall the days when garrets and hunger were the portion of the Muses' sons. One extensive house, celebrated both for its good and bad novels, declared that it had utterly ceased to purchase manuscripts on speculation, and, either terrified or cramped in means by its losses, refused to entertain any offer proposed with other views than prospective and eventual remuneration. If any payments were made at all, they were in bills, which the holder, if unprovided with monied friends, could no more get discounted than he could live upon the paper.

At this period, Mr. Fletcher, with characteristic imprudence, gave up his situation, and attached himself to the precarious, and now desperate trade of authorship! This was only last Christmas—and we hurry to the result.

He was employed to write a work on India for the 'Entertaining Knowledge,'—a portion of which is completed; and he also contributed, we believe, to several of the Magazines. He became involved in difficulties notwithstanding; but to so trifling an amount, that it is said his last days were embittered chiefly by the dread of an approaching demand upon him for twenty-five pounds, the amount of a bill accepted by his publisher, which he feared would remain unpaid, and consequently fall back upon him; but the gentleman in question asserts, that the bill had been given as a friendly accommodation to Mr. Fletcher.

Another enemy, still more fatal, was the disorder which appears to be "the badge of all our tribe"—indigestion. The sedentary habits of authors are generally supposed to be the predisposing cause of the disease: but this we deny. Exercise, without amusement, is nothing. The state of the mind, more than that of the body, we hold to be the predisposing cause. The disease again re-acts upon the mind; and this action and re-action, if long continued, produces a nervous excitement, which sometimes ends in madness.

Mr. Fletcher, like many others who are afraid of the excitement of wine, or unable to afford the means of indulgence in it, had recourse to opium in his fits of despondence. This drug is

as bad, although not quite so speedy, as arsenic, to a literary man; for it exasperates the disease which sits preying like a vulture upon his life. The hero of this sad tale sunk at last into melancholy and despair. One whole day, till late in the afternoon, he lay in bed without being able to muster energy enough to rise. He at length took his place, mechanically, as it were, at the dinner-table. He did not eat: he shrunk from conversation; but when the time of parting came, he bade farewell, with a strong pressure of the hand.

The next morning the unhappy young man was found dead upon the floor. He was surrounded with blood, and a pistol lay near the sacrilegious hand of the suicide.

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED MOSAIC AT POMPEII.

"At last," writes a correspondent from Naples, "I have been fortunate enough to obtain a sight of the noble Mosaic at Pompeii. It surpasses every expectation which even the encomiums of others had led me to entertain of it. I was least satisfied with Alexander's head; and it is a subject of deep regret, that the head of the dying youth has been seriously injured. We are, however, greatly compensated for this loss by the head of the warrior who is preparing to mount his horse, as well by the animal itself, which is bending its neck, and is represented in a fore-shortened attitude. The heads of Darius and his charioteer also; nor less those of the two Persian commanders, who are conjuring the king to fly instantly from the spot, with an eloquence of expression which is perfectly wonderful, are beyond all praise. It is greatly to be lamented, that, with the exception of Alexander and the section of the head, which is supposed to be Parmenio's, scarcely any of the Greek figures are to be recognized. This is the part of the mosaic which has suffered most."

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

OUR gossip on literature and art for this week must needs be brief, unless we indulge a little in the universal lamentation which we hear from the lips of all men who live by mental labour. Though we have no apprehensions that the time is at hand when, for want of literary light, gross darkness will cover the people, yet we confess that we hear of little that is new being undertaken; and, further, we are told, that some of those speculations in hand are anything but prosperous. Constable's Miscellany is either sold, or to be sold. Lardner, giving way to these economical times, has clipped the wings of his Cyclopædia advertisements; and Murray hesitates to issue more of his Family Library till he sees the result of the new reform measure. Galt, it is true, has written a new novel; Leitch Ritchie and Roscoe are about to describe all the old Castles of England; and the Society of Friends have announced a new Annual under the flashy name of 'The Aurora Borealis'; yet what are these compared to the works which lately kept the printing presses groaning?—Sir Walter Scott, we observe, is welcomed cordially by the people of Naples: he is invited to a grand spectacle, in which the chief personages in his unrivalled romances will be the actors.

A very clever drawing of the Ettrick Shepherd has just been completed by Mr. Fox, well known for his fine engraving of the head of Burnet: it bears the true stamp and impress of the poet, and will form a characteristic frontispiece to the forthcoming edition of his works. Jones, we hear, has made

much progress in his picture of the Opening of London Bridge, for Sir John Soane: there will be many portraits.

Our musical friends will hear with delight, and not perhaps without surprise, that the new conductor of the Ancient Concerts has overcome the long-existing prejudices of the noble directors, and prevailed on them to permit the works of the immortal Haydn to be performed at those Concerts. And we have great pleasure in announcing that the Philharmonic Society have made the *amende honorable* to Moschelles, by unanimously electing him a member, after he had been, to the disgrace of the Society and the profession, twice black-balled.

Our present number threatens to be a sombre paper, for, in addition to the melancholy memoirs already written, we have at this last moment to announce the death of the Rev. George Crabbe. Few men of his fame were so little known personally in the literary world—of simple and studious habits, he confined himself to the retirement of his rectory, to the unambitious fulfilment of his duties, and the education of his family. Mr. Crabbe was born in 1754, at Aldborough, in Suffolk, where his father held some appointment in the Customs. It is said, that he was originally intended for the medical profession, and that he served an apprenticeship to a provincial apothecary. He, however, was early won over to the Muses. He came to London at the age of twenty-four, gained the friendship of Burke, at whose recommendation he published, in 1781, his poem of 'The Library.' This was quickly followed by 'The Village,' which gained for his genius the high and enviable approbation of Dr. Johnson. In the meantime Crabbe had entered himself at Cambridge, had taken orders, and now accompanied the Duke of Rutland, as chaplain, upon his appointment to the Vice-regal government of Ireland. Through the same patronage he afterwards obtained some small church preferment. Notwithstanding the success which had attended his earlier works, it was more than twenty years before he again ventured on publication, and we remember the no small surprise with which, in 1807, we read a collection of Poems, then wet from the press, by one who, in his associations with Burke and Johnson, seemed to belong to a past age. This work also was eminently successful, and 'The Borough' followed in 1810—'Tales' in 1815—and 'Tales of the Hall' in 1819. The catalogue might have been enlarged had public encouragement tempted the publishers, for, we believe, a MS. poem has been for many years in the hands of Mr. Murray. We have neither time nor space to offer a critical opinion on Crabbe's merits as a writer, but trust to do him justice next week.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 9.—His Royal Highness the President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Volcanic Island, in the Mediterranean,' by Captain English, R.N., F.R.S.; 'Researches in Physical Astronomy,' by John William Lubbock, Esq., Vice President and Treasurer of the Royal Society; Sir Charles Bell's paper 'On the Human Voice,' was resumed, but

not concluded.—John Edward Gray, Esq., was admitted a Fellow, and Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, and the Hon. George Charles Agar, were proposed.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 7.—A paper on the cultivation and subsequent preparation of the tobacco of Shiraz, was read. It was drawn up by Dr. Riach, of Shiraz, a medical officer in the service of the Honourable East India Company, and communicated to the Society through Sir Henry Willock, whose long residence at the Court of Persia eminently qualifies him to judge of the facts detailed. It excited some interest among the Members present, not only from the account being furnished by a gentleman who had inspected the various processes described, but also from the knowledge of the advantages which may result from the successful cultivation of the variety in our own colonies, whose climates are sufficiently favourable for the experiment. With this view, the Society (through the liberality of Sir H. Willock) has lost no time in despatching a quantity of the seed to the government garden in Van Dieman's Land, and will now be enabled, by transmitting a copy of the above paper, to put additional power within the reach of those to whose care the seeds have been consigned.

We observed flowers of the *Eukianthus reticulatus*, and *E. quinqueflorus*, from the garden of William Wells, Esq., of Redleaf, among the articles exhibited; together with a flower of the *Astropæa Wallichii*, from Mrs. Marryatt. Some beautiful camellias were also on the table, from Mr. Chandler's collection, at Vauxhall; and two fine pine-apples, the *Euville* and the *Queen*, grown by a Mr. Fielder. The exhibition was a good one for the time of year, and the attendance of Members numerous. Cuttings of the *Elton* and *Belle de Choisy* cherries were distributed; both varieties remarkable for their rich and sweet qualities.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

Feb. 7.—A. B. Lambert, Esq. in the chair.—Three members, previously balloted for, were admitted Fellows of the Society, and three new candidates were nominated. The Secretary read a portion of Mr. Ogilby's paper, in continuation. A collection of dried plants, presented by the Hon. East India Company, and various other donations of books and birds, were on the table. The meeting was numerously attended.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MONDAY,	{ Royal Geographical Society . . . Nine, P.M. Medical Society Eight, P.M. Medico-Botanical Society Eight, P.M. Medico-Chirurgical Society P. 8, P.M.
TUESDAY,	{ Institution of Civil Engineers Eight, P.M. Society of Arts (Evening Illustrations) Eight, P.M. Geological Society P. 8, P.M.
WEDNES.	{ Royal Society of Literature . . . Three, P.M. Society of Arts P. 7, P.M.
THURSD.	{ Royal Society P. 8, P.M. Society of Antiquaries Eight, P.M.
FRIDAY,	{ Royal Institution P. 8, P.M.
SATURD.	{ Royal Asiatic Society Two, P.M. Westminster Medical Society . . . Eight, P.M.

GIFT OF HIS MAJESTY TO KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

A very admirable model of the human frame, of the size of life, has been lately exhibited in London, by Dr. Auzoux. It admits of being taken to pieces, each portion representing a muscle, with its attachments exactly figured, and with the vessels and nerves in relief upon it in their natural order. In this manner the exact superposition and relative situation of the different parts of the frame is displayed. The material of which the model is constructed, resembles *papier maché*. It will admit of very rude

handling without receiving injury; so that it not merely forms a curious cabinet specimen, but is capable of being advantageously used in anatomical lectures.

Sir Henry Hallford submitted to the consideration of his Majesty, the practical utility of such models, as accessory means of instruction in our schools of medicine; and the King has munificently commanded that one should be prepared by Dr. Auzoux, as a gift to King's College.

Some points that are less exact in the model now exhibiting, are to be altered under the direction of Mr. Mayo, the Professor of Anatomy in King's College. The model commanded by his Majesty will be completed by June ensuing, when it will be placed in the Museum of King's College. In the meantime, Dr. Auzoux's present model will be deposited there.

FINE ARTS

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

Exhibition of Paintings for 1832.

Six hundred works of art, executed by three hundred artists! When Reynolds founded the Royal Academy, he predicted that a golden time of British art would come, when compared with his own day—there would be thrice the number of painters, and six times the amount of excellence. The first part of the prediction is more than fulfilled; but the accomplishment of the latter seems as remote as ever. The number of living artists surpasses the sum total of living poets;—in truth, it is as easy to learn to draw legs and arms, and do a bit of history or landscape, as it is to measure out quantities of words in the order of verse; nor is it more difficult to acquire a certain portion of skill, and even dash, in the mystery of light and shade, than it is to learn the language of the muse, and utter "as brave words as a man would wish to hear on a summer's day." The living spirit of the poet or the painter is another thing: it is, in truth, an extremely rare gift, and cannot be claimed by a title of the swarms who infest the patrimony of the muses. Of the justice of these remarks, the walls of the British Institution bear sufficient evidence—three hundred of the six hundred works are such as a speedy forgetfulness awaits: a moiety of the remainder have something here and there in the conception or the handling, which detains the eye for a moment's space or so; while out of the hundred and fifty in reserve, some score or two are of that character that deserve notice; nay, not a few of them will live in our memories, and be ornaments, we have no doubt, to public and private galleries. This Exhibition is worthy of a visit: the distribution of the works is very creditable to the Committee; and though some good paintings have indifferent places, and middling pictures good ones, let those who imagine they could do justice to all claims, and at the same time preserve the true harmony of arrangement, make the experiment—they would find that squaring the circle is but a proverb compared to it. Of these pictures we shall but notice such as remained on our minds after we left the rooms, and set them down, too, in the order of the catalogue, accompanied by the painter's name.

STANFIELD. 'Portsmouth from the King's Bastion,' is, it seems, painted by command of his Majesty; and without question there is considerable talent visible in it, particularly in the agitation of the water; it is not, however, the happiest of the artist's works: we wish kings and princes would desist from commanding works of genius to be executed: it would be better were they to leave the matter wholly with the painter. Had our friend Stanfield wrought at a scene of his own fancy, he would have made a sea worthy of Neptune or of Nelson, and a

shore to match: as it is, he has made a good, but not a great picture.

ETTY. '*Sabrina, from Milton's Masque of Comus*,' is too lengthy a lady for our taste, and also too extravagant. The painter should study more attentively the dignified sobriety of style which characterizes Milton: the old Puritan bard has none of those startling, unsober postures in all his works. There is, nevertheless, great talent in the group: there is much ease amid the extravagance, and a subdued tone of colouring, which contrasts strongly with the more glaring hues in which this artist once indulged. We suspect the painter has twisted the common white lily of the field among the amber locks of the lady, instead of the lily which grows "on the cool translucent wave." The rank odour—to speak gently—of the former flower would suffocate ten such nymphs. The same artist has a picture of a scene in Robinson Crusoe, in which a tempestuous sea has ejected him upon the beach: it is a very gloomy, but a very touching work, and recalls to our memory the '*Man's Footstep in the Sand*,' by Stothard.

ROBERTS. We wish we could purchase the '*Cathedral of St. Lawrence, in Rotterdam*,' by Roberts. It measures but one foot ten by one foot seven; but in that small space the artist has wrought wonders. It is a real scene, and intensely architectural; yet the very pinnacles and gateways speak: cannot he do as much for some of our own noble old abbeys?

MRS. CARPENTER. '*A study from Nature*,' is a child's head, free, natural, and lovely. This lady has a fine poetic feeling, and no little skill, and usually unites them in her productions. No painter of the present day seizes the character of a scene or a subject with greater beauty or truth.

COTLEY FIELDING. '*Eneas meeting Venus disguised as a Huntress*,' ought not to have been the name of this picture. In fact, it has nothing at all to do with the wandering Prince of Troy. It is a charming landscape, in which the eye looks over fifty miles of the fairest fields. We have seldom seen any scene in art so beautiful, or more true to nature in its unities or in its hues; the sky resembles the real heavens, and the earth wears the fresh tender green of nature. It is true that figures may be observed in the foreground—they are, however, only figures: they go for nothing—the landscape swallows them up. The same artist has more pictures worthy of notice in the Institution; but we must move on, for other names that merit much praise are on our list.

HOWARD, R.A. '*The Dream of Queen Katherine*' is from the page of Shakespeare.

—Saw you not even now a blessed troop
Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces
Cast thousand beams upon me like the sun?
They promised me eternal happiness.

In embodying these lines the artist has given natural form and visible expression to the words of the muse; there is, to be sure, a certain air of constraint or stiffness in the figures; but the fine harmony of the scene, the natural elegance, and the poetic dignity of the whole, triumph over minor blemishes. '*The Morning*,' too, by the same eminent artist, from '*Paradise Regained*,' is a meet companion for the other—these are the words on which he has reared the superstructure of this fine work:

Thus passed the night so foul, till morning fair
Came forth with pilgrim steps in amice gray:
Who with her radiant finger stilled the roar
Of thunder, chased the clouds, and laid the winds
And grisly spectres which the fiend had raised.

E. LANDSEER. '*The Interior of a Highlander's House*,'—'*The Auld Guid Wife*,'—and '*The Lassie herding Sheep*,' are all capital copies of nature—fresh, vivid, and original. '*The Auld Guid Wife*' is most to our taste; this is a hardy, smoke-dried, upland dame, who has survived her husband, evidently a Sherrifsmuir man, and

sits contemplating by turns his claymore, where it hangs on the cabin wall, and a well-thumbed household Bible, laid before her on the table. She seems the connecting link between time and eternity, and all around her wears the same staid, stern hue as herself. '*The Interior of a Highlander's House*,' has cost the artist much more labour than its humbler companion; and certainly the exact truth and fine grouping of the whole, together with the very natural colouring, merit high praise; yet it pleases us less, because there is more of animal life and less of sentiment.

BURNETT. '*The Salmon Weir on the Leem, Devon*,' and '*The Halt of a Waggon*,' are both from the pencil of our eminent engraver, and not unworthy of taking place with productions by names of academic note. The sunshine trembling through among the shafts of the trees, and touching the foaming surface of the water in the former, and the clownish activity of the carrier boy transferring a coop of chickens from a cottage to his waggon, are both different, and both natural, and so unlike in the handling, that they seem the work of two men. '*The Salmon Weir*' itself is a fine scene: the river is swollen a little with rain, and there is a tawny foam on its surface such as Scott compared to the mane of a chesnut steed.

CLATER. '*The Return from a Masked Ball*,' deserves notice, were it only for the back view of a tall, fair girl, who is about to transfer her masking attire to her waiting-maid. She has an ensnaring shape, and, if her face at all corresponds with the elegant drooping of the shoulders and the symmetry of her limbs, woe to the sons of men when she turns round. The picture has other merits—we have noticed the attraction.

BOXALL. '*Cordelia receiving the account of her Father's sufferings*,' is, in our opinion, the most poetical work in these rooms. It won, it seems, the premium at the Liverpool Exhibition, yet did not find a purchaser; we hope it will be more fortunate here. The pathetic expression and finely-sustained dignity of the head, is equal to any work of the present day; and if the artist would condescend to colour a little more clearly, and make his outlines more defined, he would add materially to the attractions of his works.—We hear that he is about to paint a Mary Queen of Scots; it is a perilous subject: the world has already made an image of its own, which, though shaped out of air, will cost the painter no little study to surpass. There are works in these rooms which seem hung up as a warning to shun all attempts at limning traditional beauties. We wish Boxall great success in his undertaking—certainly '*Cordelia*' entitles us to expect much, and not to be very fearful.

MORTON. '*Austerlitz*,' shows the Child of Destiny directing the charge of his cuirassiers, on that victorious field. The battle was fought on the 2nd of December; and there stands Napoleon, his grey surtout powdered with new-fallen snow, his glass in one hand and the other extended towards the point of attack—we have seldom seen any work of fancy on which reality was more sternly stamped. We could find fault with one or two minor matters, but they belong more to the handling than to the sentiment.

KIDD. '*A Scene from Rob Roy*,'—it is no such thing; it is a scene from the Rob Roy of the stage, but not from the living page of the great novelist. Has the painter ever read the romance? he would there see it written down that Bailie Jarvie, instead of fighting with a handsome poker, as he is doing here, fought with the red-hot coulter of a plough, like a wild Indian, as his antagonist Allan Iverach avowed. Why should an artist dispense with a weapon so picturesque, and, withal, the proper weapon?

The truth is, we believe, many clever artists, and Kidd is undoubtedly one, are mere Thebans in learning. The other day, in turning over this same artist's illustrations of Burns, we found, in the '*Address to the De'il*,' a douse motherly old woman praying very comfortably in her chamber, instead of beside the bower-tree hedge of her kale-yard—as a pious woman would—on the other side of which she heard old Satan humming past on errand of evil. The Douglass creature of this picture is truly capital; the raised look, too, of the Baillie is happy, and, on the whole, it is nearly worthy of the page of Scott, were it not for the poker, which is far from classic, whatever learned men may say. '*The Gipsies' Encampment*,' is likewise natural, and recalls many scenes which we have witnessed wherein those vagrants were actors—sheep disappeared from the fold, linen from the hedge, and hens from their roosts.

WEBSTER. '*The Love Letter*,' by this artist, attracts much notice. A young woman has opened her chamber window, and, by the light which bursts in upon her, is reading a love-letter, with a kind of quiet rapture worthy of deep and modest love. This is an honest labourer in the field of sentiment and nature.

DANIELI, R.A. '*The Indian Fruit-seller*,' and other pictures of an Eastern character, by the same painter, are quiet and beautiful bits of art. They bring strange scenes, strange faces, and strange hues before us, and these are ever welcome.

ROTHWELL. '*The Village Morning*,' is a beautiful girl, with looks like Aurora—we have seldom seen Rothwell happier either in his colours or in his character.

LINTON. One of the best landscapes in the collection is the well known '*Civita Castellana*,' by Linton; the perspective is capital, and the whole scene is clear and distinct: all is made out with the accuracy of nature; yet all is elegant and harmonious. We might say that some of the lines are too hard, and that the picture is made up from the fac-simile style of Canaletti, and the dash and freedom of later painters; these are other men's remarks, not ours. The performance is a fine one, no matter how produced.

CLINT. '*Falstaff, Pistol, and Mrs. Quickly, at the Garter Inn*,' is certainly not the happiest of Clint's dramatic paintings. The fault is in the excellence of the subject, for who can paint a Falstaff, who was not only witty himself, but the cause of it in others; or limn a Pistol, with his swaggering gait and ten pound weight words?

We must, however, have done, at least for the present, although conscious of having left many clever pictures unnoticed.

The Fall of Babylon. Painted and engraved by John Martin.

TITTS is one of the earlier works of the distinguished painter, and its merits are of a high order. There is all the supernatural light and superhuman architecture—the terror and the dismay of his latter pictures; yet it is scarcely so sublime as the '*Hammering on the Wall*,' nor so magnificent as the '*Fall of Nineveh*.' We have heard even artists argue that there is a want of making out of limb and lineament in the historic actors in these solemn scenes, and that a nicety resembling miniature portrait-painting was required. We hold no such opinion; in truth, the rush and the tumult of the besiegers and the besieged enter but little into our thoughts—the grandeur of the lightning-illuminated landscape is the chief attraction; and we feel sure that were the forms of the agitated masses more distinctly drawn, not a little of the interest would decrease; for many men can paint human beings as well as Martin, but who besides can give an interest, not of this world, to cities and palaces

and clouds, and make us look with terror on towns doomed to destruction? The engraving is from his own hand, and this, we conceive, enhances materially the value of it.

MUSIC

KING'S THEATRE.

AFTER the usual delays incident to a new and inexperienced management, this theatre opened on Saturday last, with 'L'Esule di Roma,'—performed for the first time in this country. As we have before stated, this opera is one of the early productions of Donizetti, whose compositions, of an inferior kind, are numerous enough, and have been principally admired by the musical cognoscenti at Naples, where he has always resided. Having, some short time since, like most of our contemporaries, built up our expectation to Mozart's 'Idomeneo,' we heard, with more regret than astonishment, that the *derrière d'un petit genre* was substituted for the *première d'un grand genre*. Mr. Mason, however, is not the first manager who has been compelled to bow to circumstances.

The whole of the music of this opera is quite à la Rossini;—here we have a snatch of an *agitato* from 'Otello'—there a phrase of a chorus in 'Semiramide'; indeed, except that it wants a scena for the *entrée* of the *prima donna*, "la coupe" as our neighbours have it, is like most modern Italian operas. The most striking melodies are the last movements of two scenas for soprano in the second act,—one of which Donizetti afterwards converted to a *larghetto*, in his subsequent 'Anna Bolena'; and into which Pasta threw all her thrilling pathos with so much effect during the glorious days of last season—it is the '*Ah dolce guidami*,' so well known and deservedly popular. In the second act there is now introduced a long, half-military, demi-choral scena, by Costa, tolerably well written, and suitably adapted for the powers of Winter, to whose singing its success ought to be attributed. We disapprove of this system of Pasticcio. Critics are generally severe on our native composers when they venture to take such liberties with an author; and, indeed, it is only to be tolerated when a composition by the same author can be introduced of a character corresponding to the scene for which it is required. Before we quit the subject of the music, we must do justice to Mr. Monck Mason's Overture. The critics, generally, have spoken slightly of it; the subject of the allegro is evidently Mozart's fugue in the overture to 'Zauberflote'; still it is extremely well put together—is well relieved by some happy melodies—and we do not hesitate to say that it is a composition not unworthy the reputation of a good musician. Now for a word or two on the new singers.

Mad. de Meric is a middle-aged French lady, who has, from late experience, acquired the Italian style of singing. We rather think that we heard her, as Mlle. Demer, at the Italian Opera in Paris, in 1824-5. She has a thin *voce di testa*, of an agreeable quality, extending to *c* and *d* in *alt.*: her intonation is beautifully just; and, in the absence of much flexibility, she successfully indulges in staccato passages of intervals in thirds, sixths, and octaves, at the close of an *aria*, which, from their novelty and perfect execution, elicited much applause. The scene of detached recitativo, in which she made her *début* on Saturday, was rather unfavourable to the development of her powers; but a grand scena, in the second act of the opera, gave her an opportunity of display, of which she availed herself, and met with success. But we must observe that this lady's taste is not purely classical: at the close of a pathetic movement, otherwise sufficiently well executed, she darted a rapid screaming cadenza, by no means in keep-

ing with its character; and further pained our feeling by failing to reach the upper note.

The *primo tenore*, Signor Winter, is about thirty-five years of age, and a native of Italy. He sang his part in an unostentatious and irrepachable manner; but he will not, we fear, obtain enthusiastic admiration from our fashionable musical amateurs, whose favour is won, more or less, by the disguise of simple melodies, with an excess of *florimenti*, even though at the sacrifice of time and tune—(the success of Signor David, to wit!) The voice of Signor Winter, although not very flexible, is equal, and reaches to *A*, in its natural compass—the upper notes rather nasal. His intonation is usually correct, and his *ad libitum* passages rarely intrusive—qualities certain of a musician's applause.

Signor Mariani has a powerful bass voice—he sings correctly, but his style is rather coarse. The trio in the finale to the first act was a vulgar exhibition of noise—a little *chiaroscuro* might have rendered it, what it usually has been, the most successful composition in the opera.

Signor Calveri is a second-rate tenor, and an excellent substitute for the long worn-out Signor Deville, of ancient memory.

The choruses are rather more numerous than before; yet we do not find them vastly improved—in fact, there wants, in each class of voices, one thoroughly good musician, who will attack the points, and give confidence to all: they ought also to be made to participate, by acting with some degree of intelligence, in sentiments in unison with the hero or heroine; whereas they are still, what they have ever been at this theatre, mere walking-sticks, clustering without grouping, and singing without motion. Mr. Monck Mason could here effect improvement. There is nothing which more astonishes the English traveller when he visits the German and French theatres, than the vigour, intelligence, and power of the chorus singers.

A direct comparison has been hazarded by the friends of the new manager, between the organization and discipline of the band of the King's Theatre and that of the Académie de Musique at Paris. Now, in the orchestra of the latter theatre, there are upwards of eighty performers, and all efficient;—at the King's Theatre there are, perhaps, fifty! In Berlin, the band is equally numerous as at Paris; and those best acquainted with the subject have often assured us, that it will take two or three years for a band to attain perfect discipline! Now this is the first week of the first season of our Opera band,—for there are many entirely new members in it;—so that, according to the judgment of others, it will be about the time that Mr. Mason retires from the management that the Opera band will have attained to perfect discipline, and it may then, probably, be again disorganized by his successor:—such has been the case. As a proof of the advantage of keeping the same band together, we may instance the superiority of the Philharmonic orchestra. Yet there is another obstacle which will always prevent our bands attaining the discipline of those on the Continent. We have too many *chefs d'orchestra*, so that the *repêni*, instead of obeying only one, are distracted by so many authorities, that they have recourse to their own intelligence, and follow their own imagination, to the utter destruction of all general effect. A distinguished composer, who visited us some few seasons ago, being asked what he thought of the aristocracy of the opera, replied, "in the orchestra it was monstrously *fierce*." Praise, however, is due to Mr. Mason for some improvements:—for having a greater number of basses in the centre of the orchestra, which contribute much to steady the band—also, for increasing the number of violas to six—but the violins ought, we think, to be more numerous, for we only counted sixteen,

exclusive of leaders! We are also glad to observe that Dragonetti, Mori, and others of their rank, remain to play in the ballets.—We have heard, that out of friendship for his friend Spagnoletti, Mr. Mason has denied to himself the honour of introducing the system of leading with the *Baton*—here is one reason why the German and French bands surpass ours; the sight of this magic little wand, in efficient hands, controls a band more quietly and effectively than all the beating, stamping, and ejaculations of "My Got, go vit de singer," which we are doomed occasionally to hear at the King's Theatre; and we must observe, that in the general execution of the music on Saturday, there were inaccuracies, and a want of "chiaroscuro."

The ballet, called 'Une Heure à Naples,' is a bagatelle concocted as a "pis aller." Madame Le Compte danced a *pas deux* with Monsieur Albert—they are both reputed great artists, and were well received. A *pas quatre* was also danced by some second rates, and there was a prettily-grouped quadrille, and the whole performances passed off satisfactorily. The music of the ballet is by Costa; the introductory movement, and some of the dances are inferior; but the pantomime was characteristic and good.

THEATRICALS

ADELPHI THEATRE.

ON Thursday, a new burletta made its first appearance at this house. It is called 'Chalk Farm,' and the idea is from a one-act French trifle, entitled 'Le Tire au Pistolet.' How much more than the idea is borrowed, we know not—neither do we care, as our business, as well as our pleasure, lies with that which is put before us, and not with that which has been put before other people—or, as we may say, in seemingly bad English, *an* other people. We always feel some diffidence in speaking of a new production at this theatre, because those who are naturally modest, (and modest we pledge our anonymous honour that we are, though, to our readers, who cannot see us, we may not look so,) are sure to hesitate at giving an opinion, where it is not asked. It is the custom here, to announce a new piece for such a night, "and during the week." In doing this, "the management" can have no other object than that of saving audiences the trouble of thinking for themselves: and, seeing how many subjects of more importance the public constantly have to think of, perhaps a more considerate arrangement for a thinking people could not be made. If, after so many years of successful catering, the management does not know what is good for its audiences, who should? There can be but little doubt, that the doctor knows better than the patient; and we therefore recommend the management to persevere in the system, and the public to be patient, under a conviction, that although that which is prescribed for them, may sometimes be a little unpalatable at first, it will ultimately, if duly swallowed, do them good. These observations apply in some degree to the new piece of Thursday. There were parts of it, at which certain portions of the audience expressed impatience and disapprobation, but the majority approved, and if those who did not, will follow the usual prescription, "Repetatur haustus novissime prescriptus," and take themselves there again in a few nights, they will doubtless find such trifling alterations made, as their constitutions may have been found to require, and their sides "when taken," will, we venture to predict, be "well shaken." The plot may be told in even less space than we usually assign to such matters. Two lawyer's clerks (Messrs. Buckstone and Reeve,) leave their lawful employment and their lawful wives, and arrive at the Chalk Farm tea-gardens, to spend

the day in the unlawful society of two ladies of questionable propriety. The wives (Mrs. Fitzwilliam and Miss Daly,) discover the plot, and follow to torment and expose them—Mrs. Fitzwilliam disguised as a little man, and Miss Daly in the capacity of his *chère amie*. Each husband recognizes his own wife, but neither knows his friend's, and they are both threatened into secrecy. The whole party partake together of an elegant dinner of tripe. Occasion is taken by the little female man to pick a quarrel with Mr. Reeve, and an adjournment to the shooting ground, with a view of Primrose Hill, and to a duel, follows. Here Mr. Reeve, who proves to be a large man with little courage, and who has more stomach for tripe than gunpowder, without waiting for his adversary to fire, falls down, upon the accidental explosion of a pistol in the hand of a person near him. Being, of course, laughed at by all present, and being considered to be thereby sufficiently punished for his frolic, a general reconciliation takes place, and the piece goes off almost as unexpectedly as the other did. These materials are slight—but Mr. Reeve hustled—Mrs. Fitzwilliam clustered—Mr. Buckstone a-aw-awd as usual, with much comicality—Mr. Wilkinson, (whom we had forgotten to mention,) was as dry and quaint as circumstances permitted, and the audience laughed. Nothing then seems to be required, but the omission of one or two gross allusions from Mr. Reeve, which, we hope, for his sake, were the author's, and which we hope, for the author's sake, were his, to enable 'Chalk Farm' to have its fair share of custom.

MISCELLANEA

The Lady's Chapel, St. Saviour's.—Our readers will probably have read enough of the threatened demolition of this ancient building in the daily papers. We have therefore great pleasure in contradicting the report, that Mr. Smirke had lent the sanction of his name to the removal of this building. We are enabled to state, from the best authority, that the reverse is the fact; the London Bridge committee, however desirous they may now be of relieving themselves from the imputation of being partners with the Borough vandals in this barbarous act, certainly consulted that gentleman, as to what was best to be done to support the church when the chapel was removed; and on Mr. Smirke's remonstrating with them, they said they had decided upon the removal, and all they required was his help in propping up the tower.

Polish Society.—The Poles, who have been forced to seek an asylum in France, have instituted a Society at Paris, under the name of the "Literary Society of the Polish Refugees;" under the presidency of the celebrated Lelewel. Its object is to bring the rest of Europe better acquainted with the beauties and value of Polish literature, the ancient and modern history of Poland, and whatever may bear upon the arts and sciences, so far as that country is concerned. On the list of the first founders of this Society, we observe the names of Chodzko, Slowacki, Casimir Dobrowski, Niewicz, Wodzinski, and many others, as eminent for their patriotism as their scientific attainments. A somewhat similar Society is, we believe, about to be established in London.

The Cholera.—It has been remarked in Bohemia, that the animal kingdom has suffered great mortality since the prevalence of the cholera in that quarter. Vast numbers of fish and hares, in particular, have been found dead, and these species have consequently been banished from all Bohemian tables.

The Law Paramount.—It has been observed, that, since the never-to-be-forgotten month of August, 1830, the loaves and fishes of the civic-monarchy of the French have been par-

celled out amongst fifteen hundred and sixty-three limbs of the law! They have doffed the gown, to put on the paraphernalia of cabinet ministers, attorneys-general, king's advocates, advocates-substitute, prefects, and deputy prefects, &c. "Out of the which premises," observes one of their faculty, "it appeareth, that our government is neither an aristocracy, nor a democracy, but to all intents and purposes, an absolute advocacy."

Steam Ice-breaker.—The *Baltimore American* mentions, that an experiment was made lately with a steam-boat, for the purpose of testing the strength and efficiency of her fixtures for breaking through the ice; and that, although the ice was at least twelve inches thick, and of a flinty hardness, she went through it for a distance of two or three hundred yards.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL

Days of Week.	Thermom.		Baromet.	Winds.	Weather.
	Max.	Min.			
Th.	2	49	30	28.90	S.W. Moist, P.M.
Fr.	3	48	36	29.00	S.W. Clear.
Sat.	4	51	43	29.50	W. Cloudy.
Sun.	5	55	45	29.70	S.W. Ditto.
Mon.	6	51	36	29.60	S. to S.W. Moist, P.M.
Tues.	7	48	28	29.80	W. to N.W. Clear.
Wed.	8	49	36	30.10	S.W. Ditto.

Prevalent Clouds.—Cirrostratus, Cumulus, Cumulostratus.

Mean temperature of the week, 38°.

Nights fair. Mornings fair, except on Saturday.

Day increased on Wednesday, 1 h. 44 min.

NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE AND ARTS.

Forthcoming.—Bibliographia Inedita, or, a Catalogue of Books not printed for Sale, with some Account of them, by John Martin.

A new and improved edition of Lawrence on the Horse, with a Portrait of the Author.

A Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Althorp, Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. on the State of the Currency, by Henry Lambert, Esq., M.P.

Kidd's Guide to the Surrey Zoological Gardens, with illustrative Engravings, by G. W. Bonner.

The Stranger's Pocket Directory to the Amusements of the Metropolis, with Engravings, by G. W. Bonner.

It is proposed to publish, by subscription, twenty-eight of Capt. G. F. Lyon's Mexican Drawings, descriptive of the Scenery and People at and near the Mines of Bolinas and Real del Monte, in four numbers, at ten shillings each number. The Drawings in each number to be eight inches by six inches in size, and to comprise a Vignette, four Views or Costumes, and two illustrative of the processes for extracting the Silver from the Ore.

The British Magazine, and Monthly Register of Religious and Ecclesiastical Information. Parochial History, Documents respecting the State of the Poor, Progress of Education, &c., No. I. will appear on the 1st of March.

Just published.—Rev. Robert Hall's Reminiscences, by Greene, 8vo. 6s.—Stevens's Life of John Bradford, 8vo. 10s.—Laron's Bow of Strength, or History of Joseph, 3s. 6d.—New Family Cookery Book, 12mo. 4s. 6d.—Tobin's Journal of a Tour through Stria, Carniola, and Italy, 8vo. 5s. 6d.—Murray's History of Galloway, 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Chapman's Atlas of Surgery, 8vo. 18s.—General Delusion of Christians, 8vo. 12s.—Selections from Southey's Prose Works, 12mo. 5s.—Phenomena of Nature familiarly explained, 12mo. 4s. 6d.—Bowring's Cheshire Anthology, 8vo. 7s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

Thanks to W. G. A.—B.—J. Kender.—W. T.—A constant reader.

M. appears to have stopped short in the middle of the sentence.

G. O. I. is wrong from first to last. The receipt was acknowledged January 28. The intimation "at divers times," is all a dream.

Zeta is right, but it is only at rare intervals that we can touch on such subjects.

M. P. must send us his name, as security that the papers are genuine.

Other correspondents next week.

The Georgian Era, next week.

The number wanting to complete last year's volume, is now reprinting, and sets may be had on Thursday next. We must, however, intimate that they will positively be delivered in the order that names are received, and that not more than three or four and twenty copies remain to be disposed of.

We have again to apologise to our advertising friends for many omissions.

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